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**HNY ICB Committee Assurance and Escalation Report**

**Report to:** HNY Integrated Care Board

**Report from:** Audit Committee

**Date of meeting:** 19 September 2024

**Committee Chair:** Stuart Watson, Non-Executive Director

**Director Sponsor:** Emma Sayner, Acting Executive Director of Finance and Investment Karina Ellis, Executive Director of Corporate Affairs

**Author:** Mike Napier, Director of Governance and Board Secretary

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| **Key agenda items covered by the meeting**  (*A bulleted list of the key agenda items discussed at the meeting)* |
| * Update on the national move to a cloud-based accounting system * Governance Assurance Report:   + Statutory Registers   + Audit recommendations implementation   + Use of emergency powers or urgent decisions (none to note)   + Non compliance with standing orders or prime financial policies or use of single tender waivers (non to note)   + Bad debts / special payments or write-offs * Assurance of the Board Assurance Framework (BAF) and risk management system * Assurance of other Committees of the Board * Internal Audit Progress Report * External Audit Progress Report * Counter Fraud Progress Report * External Auditors – Contract Extension |
| **ALERT**  *(BY EXCEPTION ONLY - key matters and / or risks to alert or escalate to the ICB Board)* |
| * The Committee approved the option to extend the ICB external audit contract with Forvis / Mazars for 2025-26 and 2026/27. Agreement was also given to engage in a regional ICB procurement exercise for external audit services from 2027/28 onwards.      * The Committee will receive a report at its next meeting setting out the risks, and their mitigations, associated with the potential migration of the ICB to a cloud-based financial management / accounting system as part of a national programme. |
| **ADVISE AND / OR ASSURE** (BY EXCEPTION ONLY - *Key updates to advise the ICB Board on the matters the Committee was able to take assurance on or where additional information was required* |
| * Good progress was noted in the completion of internal audit recommendations, while the continued importance of setting clear and realistic deadlines for completion by management was reiterated. * The Audit Committee noted the qualified opinion from external audit with regards to their Independent Reasonable Assurance Report for the Mental Health Investment Standard (MHIS). In so doing Members also noted the external auditor’s comments about the challenges associated with auditing the MHIS, including with respect to consistent interpretation nationally as to what constitutes mental health prescribing spend and consolidation of historical interpretation by predecessor CCGs. Assurance was provided by senior ICB officers as to the steps being taken in 2024/25 to improve the consistency of future assessment. |

**END.**