



HNY ICB Committee Assurance and Escalation Report

Report to: HNY Integrated Care Board
Report from: Audit Committee
Date of meeting: 23 January 2025

Committee Chair: Stuart Watson, Non-Executive Director
Director Sponsor: Mark Brearley, Interim Executive Director of Finance and Investment
Karina Ellis, Executive Director of Corporate Affairs
Author: Sasha Sencier, Head of Governance & Compliance

Key agenda items covered by the meeting

(A bulleted list of the key agenda items discussed at the meeting)

- Annual Accounts and Annual Report 2024/25 timeline
- Month 9 Governance Statement
- Freedom of Information update
- Internal Audit progress
- External Audit progress
- Counter Fraud update
- Financial reporting updates
- Governance Assurance Report:
 - Statutory Registers
 - Audit recommendations implementation
 - Use of emergency powers or urgent decisions
 - Non compliance with standing orders or prime financial policies or use of single tender waivers
 - Bad debts / special payments or write-offs

ALERT

(BY EXCEPTION ONLY - key matters and / or risks to alert or escalate to the ICB Board)

- Nil

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)

- **Annual Accounts and Annual Report:** The team is confident in delivering the annual accounts and annual report on time, with a clear timetable in place. The new requirements are being addressed, and there is assurance on meeting the deadlines.
- **Governance Assurance:** The month 9 governance statement has been compiled and submitted on time, with no IG breaches or lapses reported. The board can be assured of the governance processes in place.
- **Conflicts of Interest and Training Compliance:** There is a high level of return for the annual renewals of the declarations of interest register, and training compliance is close to the target. This indicates good governance and compliance within the organisation.
- **Internal Audit Progress:** Despite some delays, the internal audit team is committed to completing all fieldwork by the end of March. The board can be assured that the internal audit plan is on track.
- **Counter Fraud Activities:** Regular awareness sessions and master classes are being conducted, and there is ongoing collaboration with NHS England to ensure all referrals are appropriately managed. The board can be assured of the proactive measures in place to address fraud risks.

END.