

Board Briefing by Chairman if the Integrated Risk & Governance Committee

(Ref: IR&GC meeting on 8th March, 2012 for briefing to Board Meeting on 29 March 2012)

New Items for Board Assurance Framework

The IR&GC considered three new items as potentially significant to warrant Board awareness and its further direction. There are, together with the IR&GC recommendation:

- **CT scanner at Hemel Hempstead**: The age, unreliability and deteriorating quality performance of the CT scanner creates a high risk of failure with significant consequence in maintaining necessary patient care and business continuity.

The IR&GC recommends that this item is added to the BAF until suitable risk mitigation is achieved. An Executive lead is identified for its resolution

- **Impact of delayed discharge on ITU**: The impact of a delay in transfer of “wardable” patients from the ITU creates a significant risk of breaching good practice and potentially significant consequence in patient care and wellbeing.

The IR&GC recommends that this item is added to the BAF for Board oversight of its correction and risk mitigation. An Executive lead should take ownership of the item to achieve better granularity and understanding of the drivers for different parts of the “delayed discharge” challenge and establish more targeted solutions and risk control measures.

- **Legacy issue on CRB checks**: A legacy issue of historical gaps in CRB checks has been identified and is important enough for Board awareness. The IR&GC examined the matter and the corrective and control actions currently being put in place.

The IR&GC reports this item for Board awareness but does not recommend it as necessary to be placed on the BAF for direct oversight by the Board. It is recommended that the Executive lead reports progress to the IR&GC (2 monthly) until matter is resolved. The IR&GC will keep the Board appropriately informed.

Estates

Clarity and alignment is emerging on Estates compliance and risks enabling granularity of necessary actions and priority. This item remains a key BAF item. While the IR&GC can provide the Board with the assurance about how the process is being managed, the Estates legacy issues and backlog maintenance challenge will keep this as a high potential/high consequence group of risks which must remain under active Executive and Board oversight.

Internal Audit of Divisional Risk Management

The IR&GC considered the findings of the review of the effectiveness of Divisional Risk Management. Assurance (overall finding = amber/red) shows that processes are in place and being implemented. The move to an amber/green or green assurance will happen when this matures to achieve consistency, more clarity in what controls are put in place and a more structured and systematic follow up and review of actions identified. The IR&GC assessed this as good progress and will continue to monitor and encourage the process.

Various progress reports

The IR&GC considered updates of various actions in progress (Women & Children Outstanding Incidents clear-up, reinforcing senior clinician engagement in the capital planning process and SI and Never Events investigation process). There is no extraordinary risk or Board awareness item emerging from these updates.

Reports were received from various sub-committees such as Business Integrated Standards Executive, Health & Safety, Emergency Preparedness Group and the Information, Implementation & Governance Group. No report has so far been received from the Sustainability Management Committee as it has yet to convene its first formal meeting. (Post meeting note: This has been organised for 30 April 2012).

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Chairman, IR&GC
22 March 2012