

**Trust Board Meeting****DATE:** 27 June 2012**TITLE:** Report from the Audit & Risk Committee**SPONSOR:** Peter Freedman, Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee**REPORT FROM:** Richard Martin, Director of Finance**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** To provide the Board with additional assurance on the Trust's risk management systems and internal controls, based on the work of the Committee at its recent meetings.**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

During its most recent meeting, on June 1<sup>st</sup>, the Committee

- **Reviewed the External Audit Annual Governance Report**

The External Auditor summarised the findings from the 2011/12 Audit, Financial Statement and Value for Money and thanked the Whittington Finance Team in doing a commendable job in a difficult year, in terms of how much was going on. The External Auditor stated how well the team had worked with the Audit Commission. PF agreed and asked that RM pass this onto the Finance Team.

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The External Auditor confirmed the accounts were free from material error with some adjusted errors and some disclosed errors. The Value for Money received an unqualified opinion and the Quality Accounts a Limited Assurance Certificate as these are due to be completed at the end of the month and therefore the Audit cannot be formally closed. A certificate will be issued at the end of June.

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The External Auditor commented upon the level of Provisions made by the Director of Finance and whether it met the strict definition under the Accounting Rule IAS37. The External Auditor felt that the level of Provisions made was prudent and did not constitute a material mis-statement.

The External Auditor confirmed that Whittington Health had met short and medium targets and there were strong arrangements in place to meet operational and performance targets. The national Standardised Hospitality Mortality Index continues to show that Whittington Health is one of the safest hospitals in the country.

- **Reviewed the 2011-12 Annual Accounts**

The Accounts were adopted recording thanks once again to Finance and the Audit Commission.

- **Reviewed the Letter of Representation**

The Letter of Representation was noted and approved.

- **Reviewed the Head of Internal Audit Opinion**

Significant Assurance was given that there is generally a sound system of internal control.

- **Reviewed the Draft Annual Report for 2011/12.**

The draft contents and timetable were presented for discussion with anticipated sign off on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** To note and confirm adoption of the Annual Accounts 2011-12

**APPENDICES:**

**DECLARATION**

In completing this report, I confirm that the implications associated with the proposed action shown above have been considered – any exceptions are reported in the Supporting Information:

Implications for the NHS Constitution, CQC registration

Financial, regulatory and legal implications of proposed action

Risk management, Annual Plan/IBP

Moving Ahead – how does this report support any of the Trust's 5 Strategic Goals