

Purpose of Report

To brief the Board on key issues, discussed on 18 December 2018, which the Audit Committee consider should be of interest to all Board members.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Board Members note the issues outlined below:

Key Issues

1. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Readiness

The Committee received a progress report from Professor Fluck, Medical Director regarding actions agreed following the review of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) readiness. Members welcomed progress with a draft GDPR plan to be circulated to the short life working group for consultation and approval, recruitment progressing to provide the Information Governance team with capacity to drive forward the GDPR project and the provision of GDPR training within TURAS. The Committee have requested a further update on progress to be provided in March 2019.

2. Transforming the Risk Approach

The Committee were updated on the work underway in improving risk management arrangements within NHS Grampian by Professor Fluck, Medical Director and Mr Wood, Risk Management Advisor. Members agreed that risk ownership by Executive Directors and the Senior Leadership team along with weekly review at the Clinical Risk meetings reflected meaningful progress in meeting the recommendations of the internal audit review. The Committee have asked for a review of the revised approach to risk management to be included in the internal audit plan for 2019/20.

3. External Audit Plan

The Committee received a briefing from Audit Scotland, the Boards external auditors, on the key areas of focus for the 2018/19 audit including an overview of planned activities and timescales to be achieved in order to complete the process by June 2019. The audit will also consider how NHS Grampian is responding to and addressing emerging risks faced by all public sector bodies including EU withdrawal, the changing landscape for financial management, dependency on key suppliers and openness and transparency.

4. Backlog Maintenance

The Committee received an update from Mr Legge, Strategic Asset Manager, on progress against the five year backlog maintenance investment plan which was previously agreed by the board. The Committee were encouraged by the progress to date against the commitment to reduce high risk backlog maintenance in clinical areas by 2020. Mr Legge advised the Committee that although funding remains a challenge, work is on target to achieve the plan approved by NHS Grampian Board in 2014. The Committee have requested a further update on progress in September 2019.