Agenda item: 6b

Committee Chair's Assurance Report

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Foundation Trust

Report to:	Governors' Council
Date of meeting:	15 December 2022
Title of Report:	Assurance Report from the Governors' Business Committee
Recommendation:	For assurance
Chair:	Andy Walder, Appointed Governor, Freebridge
Purpose:	The report summarises the assurances received, approvals, recommendations and decisions made by the Governors' Business Committee **27 October 2022.**
Background:	The Committee meets bi-monthly and has responsibility for making recommendations to the Governors' Council in respect of, Trust's long-term Corporate Strategy, delivery of the Annual Business Plan, Annual Report and Quality Account. It has oversight of the Trust's regulatory, financial and legal positions, significant transactions, proposed constitutional changes, proposals relating to mergers, acquisitions, separation or dissolution and a more than 5% increase in private patient income.
Item for assurance	**Financial Performance** Financial performance for M6 is behind plan and the position is expected to get worse during the second half of the year. A breakeven position will not be delivered. Whilst forecasting for the year end is difficult, given the System position, the committee was assured that there is a good understanding of the position and that there is a good grip on Trust finances, particularly with regard to the cost improvement programme. The committee was further assured that if the 'rainy day' provisions had to be called in, then they could be delivered with no negative impact on our patients or colleagues.
Item for escalation	**Leadership from the System** Leadership remains lacking and its financial position unclear. Governors need to push for greater clarity of the System's finances, improved timeliness in the System providing information to the Trust and assurance from the System that its financial position will not impact on patient care or staff wellbeing
Item for assurance	**Capital Budget.** The capital funding spend is on track and progressing well. The committee was assured that all capital would be spent by the end of the financial year (on time, on cost and to the agreed quality)

Item for assurance	**Elective Recovery v Plan** Months 1-6 were behind the original plan. This has now been reforecast and the committee was reassured that performance is on track to achieve the revised year end position
Item for escalation	**Winter Plan** The committee recognised that, in the coming months, the Trust would be entering its busy winter period and with respiratory, flu and Covid infections expected to rise, along with the theatre closures, then no assurance could be given that the revised elective recovery plan could be delivered. Governors will need to monitor the elective recovery plan closely as we enter the winter period
Item for assurance	**Access Standards Report** The committee was assured to see that trajectories are now in place and being reported against.
Item for escalation	**Access Standards Report** A number of concerns were expressed by the committee where it had been unable to get any assurance: 1. **Stroke:** Governors are keen to see that the action plan, which came out of the 'deep dive', is fully implemented at pace and that improvements are reported. This is an urgent priority. 2. **UEC:** Governors want to understand what the ICS plan is for UEC, when it will be delivered and what impact it will have 3. **Improvement plans** – whilst there are now good trajectories for improvement in place, most are still not being achieved and so there is no assurance that these improvement plans are making a positive difference for our patients. **4. Data:** The Committee raised a number of concerns around the quality, capture and timeliness of some of the data being used in reports. Whilst the Committee recognises that this is a symptom of national timeframes and the Trust's digital immaturity, it does place an increased urgency on our digital transformation and particularly our plans for EPR. Governors will need to be relentless in these areas and ensure that NEDs are held accountable for their delivery
Item for assurance	**Business Assurance Framework and Risks** The committee was assured that patient and colleague safety remains paramount across all activities and that the unmitigated risk to the breakeven position on the financial plan remains on the risk register.
Item for escalation	**Integrated Care System (ICS)** There remains a concern that many meetings are being held but that the 'place' element and primary care plans remains somewhat vague with patient input and indeed governor input not as strong

	as it could be. Little progress appears to be being made and it is unclear how the 'place' element will help the QEH. With regard to patient discharge, social services packages are slow to be put in place and so it is again unclear how the 'place' element will help the QEH. This is a carryover from the July meeting and remains unclear. Governors will need to push for definitive action plans for improvement in these two areas.
Risks to refer to risk register	None
Other items of business:	None

Attendance record	
Andy Walder (AW)	Chair and Appointed Governor Freebridge Housing Association
Esmé Corner (EC)	Public and Lead Governor, West Norfolk
David Chittenden (DC)	Public Governor, Breckland, N Norfolk and the Rest of England
Julian Litten (JL)	Public Governor, West Norfolk
Sue Madden (SM)	Appointed – University of East Anglia
Stewart Nimmo (SN)	Staff Governor, Non-Clinical
Sara Shaw (SS)	Public Governor, West Norfolk
Alan Brown (AJB)	Deputy Trust Chair and Non-Executive Director
Chris Benham (CB)	Director of Finance
Kerry Broome (KB)	Deputy Chief Operating Officer
Graham Ward (GW)	Acting Chair and Non-Executive Director
Sarah Renwick (SHR)	Governor and Membership Officer (minutes)