Agenda Item: 19b

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn
NHS Foundation Trust

Committee Chair's Assurance Report

Report to:	Board of Directors (in Public)
Date of meeting:	7 April 2021
Title of Report:	Assurance Report from the Finance & Activity Committee
Recommendation:	For assurance
Chair:	Graham Ward, Non-Executive Director
Purpose:	The report summarises the assurances received, approvals, recommendations and decisions made at the Trust's Finance & Activity Committee meeting on **24 March 2021.**
Background:	The Committee meets monthly and provides assurance on scheduled reports from all Trust operational committees with a finance and activity (including commissioning) brief.
Item for Escalation and Assurance	**Financial Planning 2021/22** The Committee received an update on the position of financial planning for 2021/22. The national planning guidance was expected to be published on 25 March 2021 but the Trust had already made a start on the CIP planning and budget setting processes using the best knowledge available. This would ensure that all budget holders would have a budget to work within for the start of the next financial year. The allocation of capital funds has been made to the STP and a similar allocation and prioritisation process is underway within the STP and within the Trust. The Committee also noted that a separate allocation for RAAC remedial work had been allocated to the Trust. The Committee was also briefed that the Executive was taking this opportunity to ensure the senior leadership team (SLT) was being fully involved in the planning processes and that this was forming part of a wider review of the role of SLT and the groups reporting in to SLT in the governance process.
Item for Escalation	**Finance and Activity Report Month 11** The Committee received the monthly finance report and was informed that the Trust delivered an actual financial position in line with the planned financial position. The Committee reviewed the range of financial forecasts that had been risk assessed and remained assured that the planned financial deficit for the year would be delivered. The Committee recognised that this was the second year in a row that the Trust was in a position to deliver its planned financial position.
Item for Escalation	**Finance and Activity Report Month 11 – Capital Position** The Committee discussed the underspend position with respect to the capital programme and recognised the need to improve the capital planning and delivery processes in 2021/22. The Committee will receive a detailed year end 2020/21 capital

	report at the April meeting.
Item for Escalation	**Structural Integrity of Roof** The Committee received an update report which focused on the recent incident that required the decanting of the Critical Care Unit (CCU). The Committee recognised the significant effort and timeliness of response that was required across a multi-disciplinary team. The Committee was also informed that whilst the roof remediation work was in progress additional maintenance work was undertaken including oxygen supply/pipe maintenance work and upgrades to the main lighting within CCU was also completed.
Item for Assurance	**Access Standards** The Committee received the monthly access standards report and noted the operational performance in the context of the continued operational pressures being faced. The Committee was informed of the continuation of red ED within the Day Surgery Unit and also the continuation of a red SDEC (Same Day Emergency Care). This was leading to an improved situation for emergency care performance. The Committee also discussed the challenges around diagnostic performance and capacity, the elective and cancer care performance and the process in place for the completion of harm reviews.
Item for Assurance	**COVID-19 Elective Restoration** The Committee received a presentation on the elective restoration programme. The Committee recognised that much work had been done and that although this was still work in progress the plans would ensure the Trust was in the best possible position to respond to the elective restoration requirements. The Committee also recognised the importance of allowing time for Trust colleagues to recover following the operational requirements to respond to the pandemic. The Committee will continue to monitor the development and implementation of the restoration programme over the coming months.
Item for Assurance	**Transformation of UEC: models of care and measurement** The Committee received a paper on the proposed changes to measuring urgent and emergency care as set out in NHSE&I report *Transformation of Urgent and Emergency Care: models of care and measurement* in December 2020. The Committee welcomed the paper but recognised that the current access standards with regards urgent and emergency care remain in place.
Item for Assurance	**NICU Refurbishment** The Committee received an update paper on the NICU refurbishment programme. The Committee re-emphasised their disappointment in the time taken to get to this position but welcomed the positive progress now being made.
Risks to refer to risk register:	None to refer.

Other items of business:	Other items the Committee reviewed: • Paper describing the options for 'routes to market' when undertaking procurement activities; • Paper updating on the Better Hospital Finance Improvement Programme; • The significant Risk and BAF Report; and • Received the forward planner.

Attendance	
Attendees:	G Ward – Non-Executive Director and Committee Chair S Roberts – Non-Executive Director C Shaw – Chief Executive Officer C Benham – Director of Finance L Lippmann – Deputy Director of Finance D Smith – Chief Operating Officer L Notley – Director of Patient Safety A Prime – Trust Secretary J Humphries – Director of People
Apologies:	I Mack – Non-Executive Director
Observers:	Governors - A Walder, E Corner