Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Committee Chair's Report

Tuesday 21st January 2025, 1.00pm – 4.00pm
Boardroom, 1829 Building

Committee	Finance & Performance Committee
Chair	Mrs P Williams, Non-Executive Director

Key discussion points and matters to be escalated from the discussion at the meeting:

Alert *(matters that the Committee wishes to bring to the Board's attention)*

- Financial position, Cost Improvement Plan (CIP) delivery, forecast and underlying cost pressures notwithstanding the mitigations and risks to delivering the planned out turn.
- Urgent Emergency Care (UEC) performance continues to be an area of concern. Internal focus and actions as well as external system engagement continues.

Assure *(matters in relation to which the Committee received assurance)*

- Thirlwall Inquiry spend and forecast continues to be tracked, and confirmation has now been received from NHS England that funding of £6.5M will be provided in year.
- Progress against the actions within the audit tracker.
- Pricewaterhouse Copper (PwC) Action plan progress with a significant number complete and others progressing to business as usual (BAU).
- Operational performance standards including cancer targets, waiting time targets (with a small number of 78 week breaches), and diagnostics (notwithstanding in month reduced performance and specific areas of mutual aid support e.g. audiology balance assessments at Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (LUHFT).
- Digital and data strategic programme update on delivery including prioritisation, Electronic Patient Record (EPR) development, clinical applications, Artificial Intelligence, digital project management office (PMO), and cyber risks and actions.
- Senior Information Risk Officer update including current cyber security position, data security and protection toolkit, and update on information governance. Actions ongoing to understand and reduce Freedom of Information (FOI) breaches. Update provided on a reportable data breach to the Information Commissioner's Officer with no follow up actions requested at this stage. Plan for information asset owners and business continuity plans requested for next meeting.
- Alert, Assure and Advice Chair reports from commercial procurement income group; women's and children's building project board; and estates and facilities group; Operations and Performance Executive Led Group (OPELG); Digital Transformation Group; and EPR Programme Board.

Advise *(items presented for the Board's information)*
• Benchmarking remains an area where assurance is required that we have clear plans to progress the effective and systematic use of this information. • Update on Finance Strategy development in terms of approach, structure and early work which will need alignment to the emerging clinical and other strategies. • Verbal update on the strong team response to the incident following the flood in the Emergency Department (ED) on 17th January 2025. • Update on the approach to the development of the Trust's Digital and Data Strategy.
Risks discussed and new risks identified
• Extracts of the high risk register and BAF were reviewed with updates provided. • Clear that progress is being made against the risk management improvement plan with more work to do. • A number of operational risks relate to equipment, and along with capital funds prioritisation, this will link to a proposed charitable funds appeal to support replacement of equipment across the Trust.