Care • Compassion • Community

Northern Health and Social Care Trust

Northern Health and Social Care Trust Board Meeting in Public - Cover Sheet

Subject:	Report from Audit Committee	**Date of Meeting:** 28 November 24 2024
Prepared By:	Owen Harkin, Director of Finance/Deputy Chief Executive	
Approved By:	Kathy Mackenzie, Non-Executive Director/Committee Chair	
Presented By:	Kathy Mackenzie, Non-Executive Director/Committee Chair	

Purpose

To provide Trust Board with an update from the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 21st October 2024

Approval	
Assurance	
Update	✓
Noting	

Strategic Objectives

Build Northern Partnerships and Integrate Care	***Continue to improve Outcomes & Experience***	***Deliver value by optimising Resources***	***Nurture our People, Enable our Talent & Build Our Teams***	***Improve population Health & address health & social care inequalities***
		✓		

Risk – please note if links to any principal, corporate or divisional risk

Not Applicable

Committees/groups where this item has been presented before

Not Applicable

Acronyms

DOH: Department of Health
BSO: Business Services Organisation
HIA: Head of Internal Audit

The following business was addressed by Audit Committee:

- The Internal Audit Progress Report for the year to date was presented. This reported on two changes to the Audit Plan with audits in Children's Services and Nursing switched to Infrastructure to take account of service division pressures arising from Encompass implementation. These audits will be rescheduled to 2025/26.
- The following audits were reported on:

Right to Work and Sponsorship	Limited	
Fire Safety	Split Assurance	Should improve following another unannounced inspection
Management of Client Monies in the Independent Sector	Split Assurance	8 of 9 homes satisfactory assurance
Financial Assessments	Satisfactory	
Risk Management	Satisfactory	Deterioration against past audit
Encompass Go Live/Implementation	Satisfactory	
Performance Management 2024/25	Satisfactory	
Complaints Management 2024/25	Limited	Improvement against past audit

- The Committee received management updates and assurances with respect to:
  - Right to Work and Sponsorship
  - Complaints Management
  - Job Planning
- Other BSO reports in respect of Cyber, Shared Services, Customer Assurance and the HIA Mid-Year Assurance Statement were noted by the Committee.

We provide compassionate care with our community, in our community

Trust Board Reference Number: TB161/11/F

• The Committee also received the annual Raising Concerns Annual Report for 2023/24. • The draft Mid-Year Assurance Statement was approved for consideration at the Trust Board meeting on 24 October • The final Report to Those charged with Governance for the 2023/24 financial year was presented by NIAO, with all recommendations accepted and assurance that implementation plans are under way • Other updates were noted with respect to Counter Fraud Activity, Independent Homes Assurance, and Debtors Position. • The Committee Terms of Reference were also subject annual review with minor adjustments to take account of the revised assurance framework within the Trust. • It was also noted that this would be last Audit Committee for Nuala McAuley, Assistant Director of Finance, who is leaving the Trust in November to take up a new role. The Committee thanked Nuala for her work with the Committee and wished her well in her new role.