

**Northern Health and Social Care Trust
Feedback Report to Trust Board**

Report from:	Audit Committee			
Author of Report:	Stevie Lennon, Interim Director of Finance			
Lead Director:	Stevie Lennon, Interim Director of Finance			
Presented By:	Paul Douglas, Non-Executive Director/Committee Chair			
Date of Meeting:	27 th November 2025			
Purpose				
To provide Trust Board with an update from the meetings of the Audit Committee held on 20 th October 2025.				
Strategic Objectives (select)				
Build Northern Partnerships and Integrate Care	Continue to improve Outcomes & Experience	Deliver value by optimising Resources	Nurture our people, enable our talent and build our Teams	Improve population Health and address health and social care inequalities
		✓		
Summary of Committee Business				
1. The HIA gave her progress and Mid-Year Assurance update and Directors responded: Content the process is working with good engagement with management and the progress through the Annual Audit Programme. The following Audits were reported on as part of the 25/26 Audit Plan				
Audit	Assurance	Key Points		
Management of Clients Money – IS Homes and Adult SL Units (2025/26)	Split	Satisfactory Assurance in all 8 homes, limited Assurance on Trust Monitoring of Service Users Finances. Pilot to be put in place on role of named worker regarding Financial Review. Discussion with Southern Trust to learn lessons from their application of policy.		
Laboratory Services (2025/26)	Limited	4 Significant findings, all recommendations accepted and work has commenced on implementation.		
Claims Management (2025/26)	Satisfactory			
Non-Emergency Transport (2025/26)	Limited	3 Significant findings, all recommendations accepted and work commenced on implementation.		

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Health Visiting (2025/26)	Limited	This is first time this service was Audited as was completed at request of Director following a restructure and change of leadership in the service. All recommendations were accepted and work has commenced on implementation.
Homecare Medicines Management	Limited	3 significant findings including 1 Priority 1. The Priority 1 finding related to a funding shortfall which has been addressed by Service and is being worked through. Remaining recommendations are being progressed – 1 is encompass dependant and therefore requires region to deliver.
71% of Recommendations were implementation date has passed have been fully implemented. 60 (26%) have been partially implemented and 7 (3%) have not yet been implemented. - Financial Governance continues to work with Divisions to close off these outstanding recommendations and to bring a report to SMT as well as an update to Non-Executive Directors on Audit Committee before Christmas 2025. Discussions will also continue with Internal Audit. - Update presented on Job Planning, completion of Job Plans are now at 93% (20% prior year). - Presentation on Progress on Management of General Surgery Triage, only 1 recommendation remains on-going. - Year-end Raising Concerns 2024/25 report and presentation brought to the Committee, 19 concerns raised during the year – which is an increase from prior years 12. The Chair is now the Openness Champion for the Trust. - The letter from the NIAO and the Report for Those Charged with Governance were noted. There were 3 recommendations on the report – all have been accepted by the Trust 1 is complete and the other 2 will be complete by March 26. - The Fraud Liaison Update was received – as at 30th September 26 there were 50 open Fraud cases. This is a welcome increase from prior years as it suggests staff are coming forward with concerns. - The Terms of Reference were presented for annual review. The Committee were content for them to remain as they are with no update. - Audit Committee Self-Assessment date is to be arranged with Non-Executive Directors.		
Reports Approved by the Committee		
Items for Escalation to Trust Board		

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