Northern Health and Social Care Trust
Feedback Report to Trust Board

Report from:	Report from Audit Committee
Author of Report:	Owen Harkin, Director of Finance/Deputy Chief Executive
Lead Director:	Owen Harkin, Director of Finance/Deputy Chief Executive
Presented By:	Paul Douglas, Non-Executive Director/Committee Chair
Date of Meeting:	26 June 2025

Purpose

To provide Trust Board with an update from the meetings of the Audit Committee held on 9th May and 16th June 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

The following business was addressed by Audit Committee on 9 May:

- Internal Audit present the End of Year follow up report, with key messages being:
  - 83% of recommendations were implemented, 15% partially implemented and 2% not implemented
  - 63 Outstanding recommendations of which 38 are deemed significant;
  - Ongoing need to continue to focus on evidenced implementation of outstanding recommendations
  - Continuing liaison with Divisions to focus on implementation.
- The following audits were reported on:

Non-Pay Expenditure (Estates)	Satisfactory	
Estates Procurement and Contract Management	Satisfactory	
Learning Disability Resettlement	Satisfactory	
Management of Licences and Accreditations	Limited	
Update on Fire Safety Audit 2024/25	Now Satisfactory	

- Internal Audit also provided Satisfactory Assurance on BSO Shared Services
- The HIA presented her Annual Report 2024/2, noting 19 Assurance Reports delivered, the majority of which were Satisfactory. The overall opinion is Satisfactory, which is welcome after the Limited Assurance received on 2023/24, but, again, the Head of Internal Audit emphasised the need for continued focus on outstanding recommendations.

- The HIA also presented her Internal Audit Plan for 2025/26, which had been developed following review of the Trust Risk Register and engagement with the Senior Management Team.
- An update on the Job Planning audit recommendations was presented, noting significant progress with a further update planned for later in the year.
- An update on the Management of General Surgery Triage was also presented, also assuring members of progress.
- Our External Auditors provided an update on the audit plan in respect of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2024/25.
- The End of Year Fraud Report was presented, noting 11 cases closed, and 39 cases ongoing. IT was noted that 90% of staff have completed Fraud Awareness Training, noting issues with Salary overpayments and handling of resident's monies.
- The Draft Annual Report and Accounts was presented, noting that this was subject to External Audit.
- The Annual Schedule of Losses and Special Payments was presented.
- The Audit Committee Self-Assessment process was considered and it was agreed this process would be reviewed taking account of the NI Audit Office version.
- The Draft Annual Report of the Audit Committee was presented for comment.

The following business was addressed by Audit Committee on 9 May:

- The HIA presented her regional General Report for 2204/25 which set out the position of the Trust in the overall context of Audit outcomes across all HSC bodies. It was again noted, that the overall Northern Trust is positive, it is important to continue to focus on outstanding recommendations, particularly those deemed significant.
- NIAO and our External Auditors presented the Draft Report to Those Charged with Governance. This report provided assurances with regard to the Risk identified by the Auditors, and noted 2 Priority 3 Recommendations and unadjusted errors approved by the Committee with the agreement of the Auditors.
- The Draft Annual Report and Accounts and the Draft Annual Report of the Audit Committee were also considered, and the Committee to recommend these documents to the Trust Board for approval.

Reports Approved by the Committee

Items for Escalation to Trust Board