

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

Subject:	Report from Resources Committee		Date of Meeting: 27 March 2025	
Prepared By:	Owen Harkin, Director of Finance/Deputy Chief Executive			
Approved By:	Scott Armstrong, Non-Executive Director/Committee Chair			
Presented By:	Scott Armstrong, Non-Executive Director/Committee Chair			
Purpose				
To provide Trust Board with an update from the Second and Third Meetings of the Resources Committee.			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 SPPG: Strategic Planning and Performance Group (DOH) HFMA: Healthcare Financial Management Association PLICS: Patient Level Information and Costing System				
Executive Summary				
The Second Meeting of the Resources Committee took place on 2 December 2024. - The rolling cycle of a Work Plan was considered including when focused Divisional Reviews would be scheduled, commencing in early 2025, following Encompass Implementation. - The Committee considered the Trust Finance Performance Report for the 7 Months to October, noting the forecast breakeven position, after taking account of Deficit funding from DoH of £31m. - Progress on Savings Plan for 2024/25 was also noted with a forecast over achievement of £2m, mainly due to early achievement of savings initiatives planned for 2025/26. - The committee were updated on ongoing engagement with DOH in respect of a draft Recovery Plan submitted to SPPG on 30 September. It was noted that a further request for a second iteration of the 2025/26 plan had been received with a planned submission date of 10 January 2025. - The Committee received a final report form the External Support Team from HFMA which had been tasked with reviewing the financial governance arrangements across the 5 large HSC Trusts. It was noted that this was an overall positive report noting well-defined business and financial planning processes, noting a strong culture of good financial management with control processes in place for all key areas of expenditure. A number of recommendations were noted where arrangements could be further strengthened which are in hand within the Trust. - The Committee received an update on the planned implementation of a System Outcomes Framework and System Oversight Measures across HSC to take the place of the Service Delivery Planning process. - An update was also provided on the planned implementation of the HSC Support and Interventions Framework, noting that the Trust had 6 areas of escalation: Investment Assurance on 48 Beds Business Case; Ongoing ability to provide short breaks for Children with Disabilities; SDP Underperformance areas; SAI Reporting; Neo-Natal Bed Capacity; and Unscheduled Care.				

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- Highlights reports were received from PLICS and Strategic Capital Projects and Procurement Board.
- Annual Reports were received and approved in respect of 2023/24 Property Asset Management Plan and Procurement Plan.
- A detailed update on progress with regard to Encompass Implementation was provided, noting the Go Live date of 7 November. Noting particularly the ongoing challenges with regard to Reporting and data validation with progress to be monitored over coming months.
- It was noted that this was Mr McGivern's last meeting, and the Chair and Directors offered their thanks for his advice and support throughout his time as a Non Executive Director.

The Third Meeting of the Resources Committee took place on 5 March 2025.

- The Committee considered the Trust Finance Performance Report for the 10 Months to January, noting the forecast breakeven position, after taking account of Deficit funding from DoH of £31m. It was noted the Trust is meeting its prompt payment target of 95%, and that the Agenda for Change pay award is expected to be actioned in March 2025.
- It was again noted that Savings Target for 2024/25 have over achieved by £2m, but it was also noted that a number of schemes had not yet commenced and that they are subject to review and potential replacement as part of the 2025/26 Recovery Planning process.
- The extremely challenging position for DOH, based on the draft budget for 2025/26 was also noted, with the Director of Finance setting out the regional financial revenue shortfall in excess of £400m.
- It was also noted that the Capital funding outlook is extremely constrained.
- A Financial Recovery and Contingency draft submission was made to SPPG on 7 February. This submission considered issues such as Growth, Recovery Plan measures and the potential requirement for Contingency measures which would have an extreme or catastrophic impact on trust services. It was noted that this remains a work in progress and should be subject to detailed engagement with DoH & SPPG in coming weeks.
- Area of focus, including those requiring regional enablement are: Nurse Agency, Medical Workforce, Social/Enhanced Care, Productivity, Digitation and Procurement
- A report on Financial Governance was presented, setting out the Budget Holder Training across the Trust (with 98% compliance); HFMA Managers Training, Fraud Awareness initiatives and social care governance.
- A progress report on the 6 areas of escalation on the Support and Intervention Framework was presented
- A report on Encompass reporting was also presented showing areas of high. Medium and low confidence, along with steps in train to address and/or mitigate the associated risks.
- Highlight reports were received from the ICT Steering Group the Sustainability setting out the plans in place for 2025/26 and beyond.
- An analysis of Revenue Business Cases from April 2024 to February 2025 was noted.
- It was agreed that a work plan for Divisional presentation on Finance and Performance to Resources Committee would be put in place going forward.

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