

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

BOARD ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

1. INTRODUCTION

The Board Assurance Framework (BAF) provides the Trust with a simple but comprehensive method for the effective and focused management of the principal risks to meeting its objectives. It also provides a structure for the evidence to support the Statement on Internal Control. This simplifies Board reporting and the prioritisation of plans, which, in turn, allow for more effective performance management.

The Board Assurance Framework for Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is kept up to date as a dynamic representation of the Trust's main risk priorities and reviewed on a quarterly basis. The attached extract shows the Framework as at 18 June 2010.

2. BOARD ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK RANKED RISKS

The extract attached to this paper is an executive summary which ranks the Trust's principal risks in order of priority. This provides an overview of whether the Board is adequately informed of the status of this risk. The "Action" referred to in this document refers not to the action in hand to mitigate the risk, but whether or not the Board is receiving adequate information on the status of the risk.

There is a comprehensive BAF which sits behind this document and is available to Governors for review if requested. Although this contains significantly more data on the systems of internal control and the means by which the Board can be assured that the risk is being managed, the full extent of the controls in place are not to be found in this document, but in the reports submitted to the Board to inform it about the current state of each identified risk. The frequency of the reporting should be proportionate to the severity of the risk and the confidence of the Board in the way the risk is being managed. All red risks should be reported and discussed at least monthly, amber risks at least quarterly and green risks at least annually.

3. PROPOSAL

The Board of Governors is asked to note the principal ranked risks of Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the process for ensuring that it is kept up to date, reviewed and embedded in the board reporting processes of the organisation.