

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>13.9.18</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Bo.9.18.28</b>

## Assurance: The Way Forward

Presented by	Tanya Claridge, Director of Governance and Corporate Affairs		
Author	Tanya Claridge, Director of Governance and Corporate Affairs		
Lead Director	Tanya Claridge, Director of Governance and Corporate Affairs		
Purpose of the paper	The Board of Directors requested that each Board Committee should receive a presentation in relation to the value, nature and use of assurance to support their work. This paper provides a brief overview of the presentation and confirmation that each Board Committee had received the presentation		
Key control	A defined and consistent approach to assurance is central to the comprehensiveness and accuracy with how the key controls within the Board Assurance Framework are assessed		
Action required	To note and gain assurance		
Previously discussed at/ informed by	Every Board Committee and all corporate report authors have received this presentation		
Previously approved at:	Committee/Group	Date	
	All Board Committees	Quarter 1 2018/19	
Key Options, Issues and Risks			
Essentially assurance provides ‘Confidence’ / ‘Evidence’ / ‘Certainty’ to Directors / Non-executives / Management / stakeholders / patients / staff that “what needs to be happening is actually happening in practice”. The development of assurance arrangements should be a logical extension of the Trust’s existing risk management arrangements.			
Analysis			
The Trust needs to optimise the assurance that underpins our annual governance statement and as a consequence the assurance arrangements for the Board.			
Recommendation			
The Board of Directors should note the content of the report and be assured that all Board Committees have received the ‘Assurance: the way forward presentation’. In addition it was adapted for use in an education package to support the development of corporate report authors.			
The Board of Directors should note that the development of the first iteration of the suite of assurance tools/assurance map and directory will be complete by the end of Quarter 2 2018/19.			

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Risk assessment						
Strategic Objective	Appetite (G)					
	Avoid	Minimal	Cautious	Open	Seek	Mature
To provide outstanding care for patients		g				
To deliver our financial plan and key performance targets			g			
To be in the top 20% of NHS employers			g			
To be a continually learning organisation				g		
To collaborate effectively with local and regional partners					g	
The level of risk against each objective should be indicated. Where more than one option is available the level of risk of each option against each element should be indicated by numbering each option and showing numbers in the boxes.	Low		Moderate	High	Significant	
	Risk (*)					
Explanation of variance from Board of Directors Agreed General risk appetite (G)						

Risk Implications (see section 4 for details)	Yes	No
Corporate Risk register and/or Board Assurance Framework Amendments		▪
Quality implications		▪
Resource implications		▪
Legal/regulatory implications		▪
Diversity and Inclusion implications		▪

Regulation, Legislation and Compliance relevance
<b>NHS Improvement:</b> Risk assessment framework, quality governance framework, code of governance , annual reporting manual
<b>Care Quality Commission Domain:</b> <i>Safe, caring, effective, responsive, well led</i>
<b>Care Quality Commission Fundamental Standard:</b> All
<b>Other (please state):</b>

Relevance to other Board of Director's Committee:					
Workforce	Quality	Finance & Performance	Partnerships	Major Projects	Other (please state)
▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	

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## Assurance: The Way Forward

### 1 PURPOSE/ AIM

The Board of Directors requested that each Board Committee should receive a presentation in relation to the value, nature and use of assurance to support their work. This paper provides a brief overview of the content of the presentation and confirmation that each Board Committee received the presentation during Quarter 1 2018/19.

### 2 BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

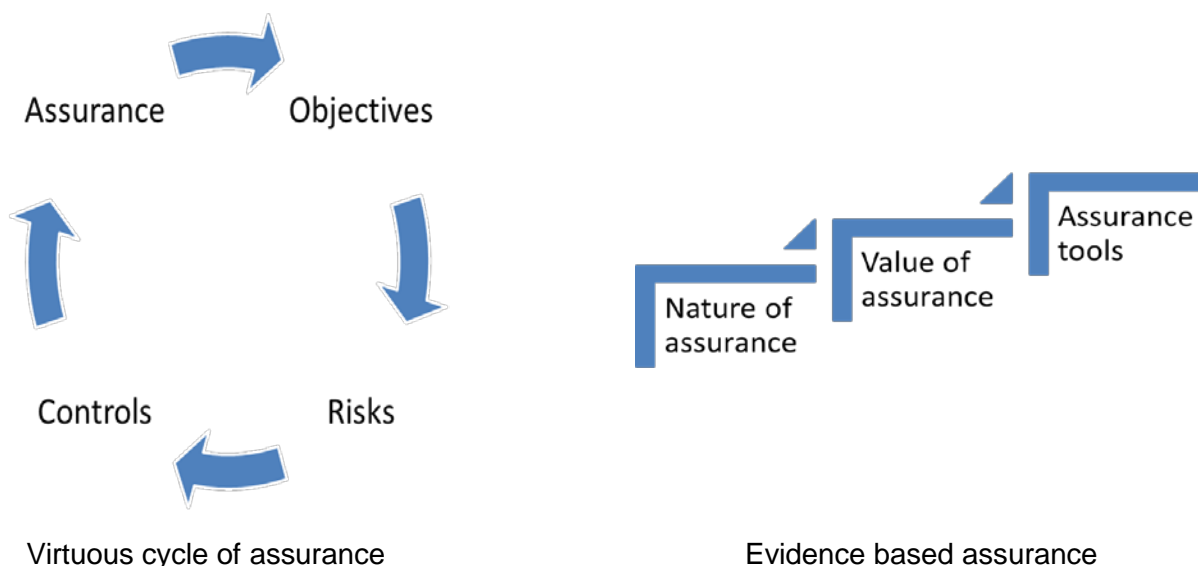
The word assurance is used a lot in everyday language and can mean different things to different people. It is important that everyone involved in developing, implementing and maintaining the board assurance framework and supporting arrangements is clear on what is meant by assurance for their own organisation, and where assurances come from.

*Essentially assurance provides 'Confidence' / 'Evidence' / 'Certainty' to Directors / Non-executives / Management / stakeholders / patients / staff that what needs to be happening is actually happening in practice.*

The development of assurance arrangements should be a logical extension of the Trust's existing risk management arrangements.

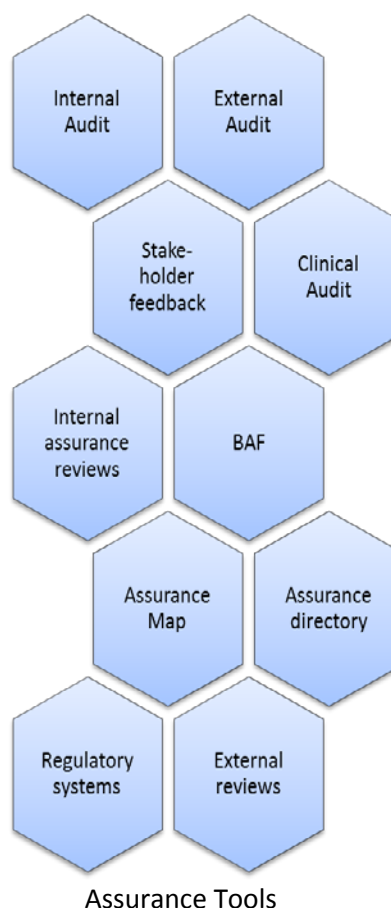
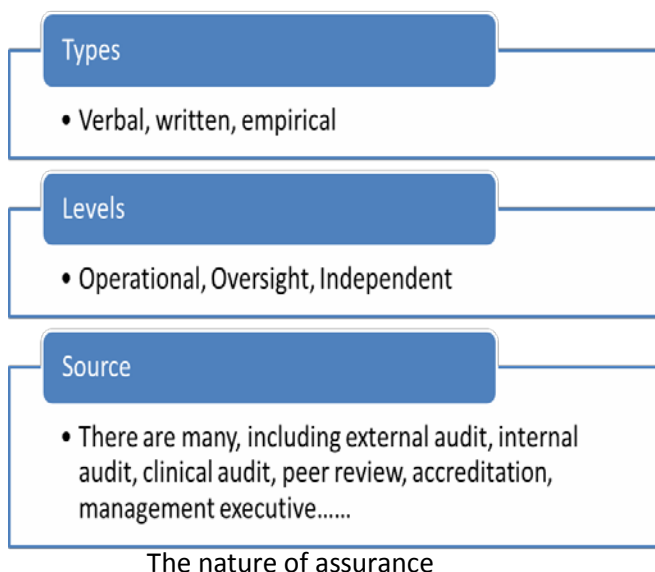
### 3 PROPOSAL

The Trust needs to optimise the assurance that underpins our annual governance statement. The first step in this is articulating a virtuous cycle of assurance and then developing a system that creates and maintains a portfolio of evidence based assurance.



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It is clear, within this portfolio of evidence based assurance tools, that understanding the nature of the assurance is critical, in conjunction with assessing its value (age, durability, relevance, reliability and independence), supported by the identification of a suite of complementary and interdependent assurance tools.



#### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

There were no risks identified in relation to the content of this paper.

#### 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Directors should note the content of the report and be assured that all Board Committees have received the 'Assurance: the way forward presentation'. In addition it was adapted for use in an education package to support the development of corporate report authors.