



Chair, Non Executive Director and Lay Member Faculty
Delivering strong governance through collaboration



Audit Committee Conference

Fostering conversations that
drive improvement



14 November 2018 – 110 Rochester Row, London



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The NHS continues to face one of the most challenging periods in its history with huge pressures on finances, along with unprecedented structural change, putting significant pressure on NHS organisations. The need for strong leadership and good governance is vital and the role of the Audit Committee is becoming increasingly important in ensuring the success of every NHS organisation across the local health economy.

This one-day event will provide essential practical guidance and a useful forum for discussion for chairs and members of the Audit Committee.

Programme

09.00 **Registration, coffee and networking**

10.00 **Chair's welcome and introduction**

Phil Taylor, Deputy Chair, NHS Sheffield CCG and Chair of HFMA's Chair, Non-Executive Director and Lay Member Faculty

10.05 **Opening address: National Audit Office**

Robert White, Director for Health, National Audit Office and Suzy Smith, Audit Manager, National Audit Office

Providing a strategic overview, Robert will update delegates on the key areas of focus for the National Audit Office (NAO). He will begin the session by 'setting the scene' and providing a strategic overview; drawing observations from recent and current reports, the implications for audit committees as well as highlighting best practice alongside areas that require improvement from across the sector. Audience members can expect to hear about key issues in the sector, progress with integration & shared control totals, including management of risk, capital and collaborations.

Suzy will provide an overview of the NAO's current work programme including their study 'Local government and the NHS: the local audit perspective' and updating the Code of Audit Practice 2020 (the Code). Suzy will begin the session explaining the roles and responsibilities relevant to the local audit landscape. She will highlight the NAO's study on what auditors are reporting and how this will inform not only the NAO's guidance and the Code but also local and national bodies. There will then be the opportunity for chairs and members of the audit committee to discuss:

- The extent to which chairs and members of the audit committee understand the roles and responsibilities of their local auditor and the audit framework
- How the findings of auditors are being used locally as part of the assurance and governance process
- Further considerations regarding the update to the Code 2020

11.00 **Coffee & networking**

11.30 **The audit expectation gap for local public audit**

Paul Dillon-Robinson, Former Director of Internal Audit & Risk, House of Commons

Paul has been asked by the ICAEW to draft a discussion paper on the audit expectation gap for local public audit in the NHS and local government.

The (external) audit profession remains under scrutiny following corporate failures, the most recent of which is Carillion, with particular questions about the adoption of going concern and "where were the auditors?"

In the public sector, ongoing austerity, changing governance models and drives for innovation and change all create risks, both to the integrity of accounts and the future financial sustainability of organisations and the services that they offer.

External Auditors in the public sector have much wider responsibilities and powers than their colleagues in the corporate world, such as giving an opinion on Value For Money arrangements, or the ability to produce a Public Interest Report.

In this session, Paul will discuss with delegates the discussion paper on the audit expectation gap for local public audit, which he has been asked to write by the ICAEW.

12.30 **Lunch and networking**

13.30 **Integrated care: getting system financial management right**

James Illott, Senior Manager – System Transformation Group, NHS England alongside a finance lead from a wave 2 ICS organisation

‘The System Transformation Group (STG) was established by NHS England to support NHS organisations on their journey to becoming Integrated Care Systems (ICSs).

In this session, James will outline the overall policy direction of ICSs and system finance reform, and discuss the Managing Collective Financial Resources framework, a tool developed to assist systems to adopt a collective approach to financial resources.

Successfully integrated care relies upon a shift from an organisational approach to system thinking. This session will offer the opportunity to explore the role of board members influencing change through questions and discussion.

James will highlight areas of good practice, as well as exploring some of the barriers faced by systems to adopting a collective resource management approach. This session will offer the opportunity to explore the role of board members in influencing change.

14.30 **Coffee break and networking**

15.00 **£1.29 billion lost to NHS fraud each year: where do we draw the line?**

Tom Taylor, Chair, NHS Counter Fraud Authority & **Paul Tiffen**, Quality & Compliance Development Manager, NHS Counter Fraud Authority

The NHS Counter Fraud Authority (NHSCFA) employs specialists in intelligence, fraud prevention, computer forensics, fraud investigation, data analysis and communications. Their main objective outlined in their 3 year plan is to eradicate fraud within the NHS. £1.29 billion is lost to fraud each year in the NHS, including examples of fraud by contractors, patients, staff, organised crime and pharmacists to name a few.

Having joined the NHSCFA, Tom and Paul are keen to outline their commitment in delivering the Department of Health & Social Care strategic plan and lead counter fraud activity in the NHS and wider health group. They will also draw upon examples of NHS fraud as well as explore ways in which you can prevent and also encourage fraud reporting within your own organisation.

16.00 **Chair’s summary & close**

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