

Audit conference

4 March 2021
Online



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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 online event will provide essential practical guidance and a useful forum for discussion for audit committee chairs and members. Delegates will have the opportunity to attend virtual discussion rooms during the programme breaks and can network directly with colleagues via video link. The conference will operate under Chatham House Rules with no sessions or discussions being recorded.

Programme

LIVE ONLY

- 09:30** **Login and networking**
- 10:00** **Chair's welcome**
Barbara Gregory, audit chair and joint non-executive director, Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
- 10:05** **Opening address: National Audit Office**
Robert White, director for health, Suzy Smith, audit manager and Andrew Kendrick, audit manager, National Audit Office
- Robert will provide an overview of the NAO's value for money programme in 2020 which has been dominated by COVID-19 related reports and investigations.
- Suzy and Andrew will follow by setting out the key changes in the Code of Audit Practice and auditors' work on VFM arrangements and what it means for local bodies.
- 11:00** **Break and networking**
- 11:15** **Preparing for external audit**
Mark Stocks, partner and head of Public Sector Assurance, Grant Thornton
- In this session Mark will cover year-end matters and a reminder of the requirements when preparing for external audit. We will discuss the role of non-executive directors in the audit process, and Mark will cover key areas to be aware of as we commence with 2020/21 audits such as key risks, stock-takes and remote auditing.
- 12:15** **Lunch and networking**

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- 12:45** **Development in the audit market**
Alison Ring, director for Public Sector, ICAEW
- In their *Developments in Audit 2020* report the Financial Reporting Council outline the key issues for audit today as inconsistent audit quality, audit market health & resilience and the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Despite a significant number of reforms to the statutory audit market introduced in 2016, a number of concerns have remained and led to several reviews such as the Kingman review being commissioned into the statutory audit sector. This session will cover the key proposed changes to audit regulations for both the NHS and the wider audit market.
- 13:30** **Break and networking**
- 13:45** **Climate change and the role of NHS boards**
Joan Saddler, Director of Partnerships and Equality at NHS Confed and Non-executive Director at Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals, *Pam Warhurst*, previously Chair at Calderdale NHS Trust and *Tim Ballard*, National Clinical Advisor - General Practice, Online and Independent Healthcare (Primary Medical Services), Care Quality Commission
- In this session we will discuss the important role that NHS boards and auditors play in considering climate-related issues. Embedding climate change considerations into board-level decision-making is a vital step in delivering society's climate ambitions, and non-executive directors can play an important role by encouraging behaviour and reporting the change that they want to see.
- 14:45** **Break and networking**
- 15:00** **The non-executive director role in ICS governance**
Steve Connor, managing director, MIAA and *Helen Kemp-Taylor*, managing director and head of internal audit, Audit Yorkshire
- In this section of the programme Steve and Helen will lead on facilitated discussions looking at the governance of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) and giving delegates the opportunity to voice their concerns, challenges and good practice.
- We will begin the session by highlighting some key points regarding NHS England and NHS Improvement's ambitions for Integrated Care and the recent consultation, including the positioning of clinical commissioning groups and the deadlines for April 2021 and April 2022.
- Steve and Helen will then each lead a discussion with delegates in two breakout rooms where attendees will be asked to join with their cameras and microphones to contribute to the conversation.
- All attendees will then come back together to share the issues discussed and their feedback.
- 16:00** **Chair's closing comments**
Barbara Gregory, audit chair and joint non-executive director, Somerset NHS Foundation Trust