

United Lincolnshire Hospitals

NHS Trust

To:	Trust Board – Public
From:	Peter Hollinshead
Date:	4 April 2017
Healthcare standard	

Title:	Approval of Annual Accounts & Review and Adoption of Accounting Policies		
Author/Responsible Director: Colin Hills/ Peter Hollinshead			
Purpose of the Report: To request the Trust Board delegate authority to the Audit Committee to approve the Trust Annual Accounts and Accounting Policies for 2016/17 and thereafter all subsequent years.			
The Report is provided to the Board for:			
Decision		√	Discussion
Assurance			Information
Summary/Key Points:			
Delegation of authority to the Audit Committee is required to approve the Annual Accounts and allow submission in accordance with National submission deadlines (2016/17 submission - 1 June 2017).			
Recommendations:			
The Board is requested to approve for 2016/17 and for <u>all</u> subsequent years the delegation of authority to the Audit Committee to review and adopt the Trust Accounting Policies and to approve the Audited Annual Accounts on behalf of the Trust.			
Strategic Risk Register		Performance KPIs year to date	
Resource Implications (eg Financial, HR) - No			
Assurance Implications - Yes			
Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Implications - No			
Equality Impact - No			
Information exempt from Disclosure - No			
Requirement for further review? - No			

Reference/Contacts

Further information can be obtained from: Colin Hills, Assistant Director of Finance - Financial Services at Lincoln County Hospital, 01522 573173. colin.hills@ulh.nhs.uk

Trust Board Meeting
Held in Public Session
On
4 April 2017

**Approval of Annual Accounts &
Review and adoption of Accounting Policies**

Lead director and job title Peter Hollinshead, Interim Director of Finance and
Corporate Affairs
Author and job title Colin Hills, Assistant Director of Finance

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to request that authority be delegated by the Board to the Trust Audit Committee to:
- a. approve the audited Trust Annual Accounts
 - b. review and adopt accounting policies on behalf of the Trust

This authority is to remain in place for 2016/17 and subsequent years.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is requested to approve the delegation of authority to the Trust Audit Committee to review and adopt the Trust Accounting Policies annually and to approve the Audited Annual Accounts on behalf of the Trust

3. Background

3.1 Annual Accounts

NHS Trusts are required to submit Audited Accounts for 2016/17 to the Department of Health before 9am, Thursday 1 June 2017.

- 3.2 The National deadline for completion of the 2016/17 unaudited accounts is 9am on 26 April 2017. Following submission, a full audit will be carried out by KPMG, which is expected to last 3 weeks.
- 3.3 The Audit Opinion and Audited Accounts will not be available for presentation to the full Trust Board in May 2017. The NHS Trust Manual for Accounts states that audited Annual Accounts must be formally approved by the NHS body's Board of Directors. However, it does allow for variation in procedures, subject to agreement.

3.4 Accounting Policies

Each year Accounting Policies should be reviewed prior to producing the Trust Annual Accounts.

Only very minor changes are expected from policies approved in 2015/16.

4. Analysis of key issues

4.1 In order to meet the National deadline for 2016/17 submission, an Audit Committee meeting has been arranged for 26th May 2017, at which it is proposed the Accounts will be considered for adoption.

4.2 Following adoption, the Accounts will be presented to the full Trust board for information.

4.3 It is anticipated that the submission deadline in future years will continue to prohibit adoption by the full Trust Board. As part of the 2016/17 approval process and in recognition that the timescales are likely to be similar in future years, it is recommended that the Trust Board extends delegation of authority to the Audit Committee for all matters in relation to the annual accounts in perpetuity.

5. Conclusions

5.1 Delegation of authority to the Audit Committee is required to approve the Annual Accounts for 2016/17 and subsequent years to allow submission in accordance with National timescales.

6. Proposal

6.1 It is proposed that authority for 2016/17 and subsequent years, be delegated by the Board to the Trust Audit Committee to:

- a. approve the Audited Trust Annual Accounts
- b. review and adopt accounting policies on behalf of the Trust

7. Reference / Contacts

7.1 Colin Hills, Assistant Director of Finance – Financial Services at Lincoln County Hospital. Tel: 01522 573173, email: colin.hills@ulh.nhs.uk