

Minutes of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee 22 January 2019

Present

John Hughes	Chair of Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
Dame Kathryn August	Board member
James Aston	Co-opted member
Helen Jesson	Co-opted member
Venessa Willms	Board member

Also in attendance

Amanda Spielman	Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Accounting Officer (Items 10 and 11)
Matthew Coffey	Chief Operating Officer
Louise Grainger	Director, Finance, Planning and Commercial
Simon Helps	National Audit Office
Ashleigh Thorius	National Audit Office
Jane Forbes	Internal Audit – PwC
Matthew Terry	Corporate Governance Manager
Sarah Thornton	Corporate Governance Officer (Item 5)

Apologies

None.

Approved.

1 Chairman's introduction, declarations of interest, minutes, actions and matters arising

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed members and attendees.
 - 1.2 Venessa Willms, Kathryn August and James Aston declared changes on their declaration of interests.
 - 1.3 The minutes of the previous meeting were approved subject to one minor correction.
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2 Report from Chair and Members

- 2.1 Helen Jesson informed the Committee that she attended an early years inspection, and praised the work of the lead inspector. James Aston informed the Committee that he too was in the process of arranging to shadow an inspection.

The Chair informed the Committee of his attendance at a risk workshop in conjunction with the Care Quality Commission (CQC), and noted the successful launch of the Ofsted Annual Report and Accounts.

Audit update

3 Progress against audit recommendations and Public Accounts Committee (PAC) actions

- 3.1 The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) discussed a report detailing progress against both audit recommendations, and actions arising from the PAC's own report following on from the National Audit Office's (NAO) value for money report.
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4 Internal audit progress report

- 4.1 Jane Forbes updated the Committee on progress made against the 2018-19 Internal Audit plan, noting that since the Committee last met the internal audit reports relating to the implementation of Ofsted's strategy and contact centre operations had been issued. An update report into the advisory audit of Corporate Governance was also provided.
 - 4.2 Members were content with the progress made against the 2018-19 Internal Audit plan, and noted the full report on the advisory audit of Corporate Governance would be submitted to the Committee in June.
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5 Internal Audit contract

- 5.1 The Committee noted that PwC's contract to provide internal audit services to Ofsted was due to expire at the end of March 2019. The Chair, HMCI and Louise Grainger had met with representatives from the Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA) to understand the audit services they could provide to Ofsted.
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7 NAO external audit report

- 7.1 The Committee noted that the NAO had contacted Ofsted for their views on the upcoming Apprenticeship's Programme report.
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8 Effectiveness review

- 8.1 Simon Helps informed the Committee that the NAO would conduct a review of the ARAC's effectiveness, using an amended version of the standard NAO effectiveness checklist.
- 8.2 The Committee was content to proceed with the survey as proposed.
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9 Interim Governance Statement

- 9.1 The Committee was asked to review and comment on the draft Interim Governance Statement and provided numerous drafting comments for consideration.
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Risk update

10. Risk Report

- 10.1 Louise Grainger presented the strategic risk report that was reviewed by the Executive Board on 20 December and obtained feedback from the Committee on the risks, ratings and mitigations set out in the new strategic risk register.

- 10.2 The Committee discussed the workforce risk in detail and received assurance that sufficient resource is available to deliver the inspections of the new apprenticeship providers in 2019-20.

Action: Louise Grainger to bring the final draft of the strategic risk register to the Committee in March.

11 Finance Report

- 11.1 Louise Grainger reported the financial position as of the end of November 2018. The Committee noted the financial position.
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12 Any other Business

None.

End of meeting

The next Audit and Risk Assurance Committee meeting will take place at 10.30am on Wednesday 13 March 2019, in Clive House room 403a.