

HIGHLIGHTS FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING **HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2009**

A report on Performance Management of Delayed Transfers of Care had highlighted that the main issue for the PCT was partnership working with a lot of the recommendations reliant on actions by Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Partnership. One of the main problems was this was the only decision making forum where the NHS organisations came together.

NHS BEN had received an excellent Annual Audit Letter however comments about partnership working highlighted the issues being experienced across the country.

Under Use of Resources (UoR) managing finance and governance arrangements both scored 3. Managing the workforce scored 2, however arrangements were already in place to provide better control and management in the future. The emphasis in 2009/10 would be on the use of natural resources such as water, energy, managing waste and business mileage.

Internal Audit (IA) had undertaken a follow up piece of work on IT Controls. This confirmed that the issues remained those of strengthening access and password controls, disaster recovery plans and the IT server environment. IA would continue to follow up to ensure outstanding actions were delivered and this would be reported again in the fourth quarter. The Audit Committee would expect a resolution to these issues by the end of the financial year.

The Audit Committee had previously requested IA to prepare a report on the assurance framework (AF) from a high level perspective. The conclusion was there had been a loss of strategic focus. A number of recommendations had been made including that the AF should be aligned with future business plans and signed off by the Board. These were accepted and training sessions would be organised.

Richard Miner
Chair