

Meeting: Trust Board Meeting in Public

Date: 29 October 2025

Assurance Report

Agenda item	Month 6 2025/26 Finance Report
Board Lead	Jon Evans – Chief Finance Officer
Author	Katherine Archer – Deputy CFO, Financial Management Nicola Peters – Deputy CFO, Financial Control
Appendices	Month 6 2025/26 Finance Report
Onward governance	N/A

Report overview

The Trust has delivered its planned deficit of £(5.8)m with no variance, at Month 6 year to date. This position has been achieved through the benefits from unplanned one-off items totalling £5.9m: prior year income accrual releases £3.6m; release of 2024/25 annual leave accrual £1.0m; prior year drugs accrual releases £0.6m and prior year Q4 VAT refund £0.7m. These benefits offset areas where expenditure is worse than plan, including lower than planned reductions in workforce costs £(5.5)m and in non pay costs £(3.5)m as well as additional unplanned costs for MARS £(0.4)m and Industrial Action direct costs £(0.2)m. Activity related income overperformance is £2.2m.

The Month 5 Capital spend is £10.5m against a plan of £15.1m. The expectation is that spend will increase as the year progresses, schemes are approved and contractors appointed. The 2025/26 full year Capital plan is £54.7m which includes allocations for National Constitutional Standards, Critical Infrastructure and UEC Incentive.

The closing cash balance at the end of Month 6 was £13.1m against a forecast of £7.1m, mainly due to the receipt of Capital PDC being earlier than planned.

Level of assurance

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substantial assurance High level of confidence in delivery of objectives	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable assurance General confidence in delivery of objectives	<input type="checkbox"/> Partial assurance Some confidence in delivery of objectives	<input type="checkbox"/> No assurance No confidence in delivery of objectives
Previously considered	Executive Management Committee – 21 October 2025 Finance and Business Performance Committee – 28 October 2025		
Decision	The Board is requested to take substantial assurance from the report, as above.		

Relevant strategic priority

Outstanding Care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Healthy Communities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Great Place to Work <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Net Zero <input type="checkbox"/>
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Relevant breakthrough objective – 2025/26

<input type="checkbox"/> Reduction in emergency admissions <input type="checkbox"/> Reduction in elective waiting times	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting people to live healthier lives	<input type="checkbox"/> Zero tolerance to bullying	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Governance / Statutory Requirement
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Implications / Impact

Quality	Achieving outstanding quality of care
People (BHT colleagues)	Achieving great place to work
Risk: link to Board Assurance Framework (BAF) and local or Corporate Risk Register	Principal Risk 2: Failure to deliver our annual financial plan
Financial	Achieving our financial targets for 2025/26
Compliance	Achieving the NHSE approved 2025/26 financial plan
Partnership: consultation / communication	Achieving BHT element of BOB ICB 2025/26 financial plan
Equality	Equality is considered in all aspects of financial planning, support and reporting