

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**20 APRIL 2011**

<b>Subject:</b>	Assurance Framework
<b>Supporting Director:</b>	Neil Riley, Trust Secretary
<b>Author:</b>	Andy Challands, Assurance Manager
<b>Status</b>	N

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

The Board of Directors is required to review the assurance framework at least annually whilst maintaining ongoing monitoring on the effectiveness of internal control systems. This is a prerequisite for the Chief Executive as Accounting Officer to sign off the Statement of Internal Control.

**KEY POINTS:**

- In November 2010, TEG approved proposals to rebuild (rather than refresh) the Assurance Framework ensuring alignment of risks with corporate objectives *Excellence as Standard* in contrast to inherited framework objectives.
- The Trust Secretary and Assurance Manager held a series of meetings with executives (and relevant managers) to review the revised objectives and the risks that fall within their portfolios. The Assurance Framework is the outcome of the meetings.
- The draft Assurance Framework was presented to the Audit Committee on 12 April and to TEG on 13 April 2011 and further amendments made to the final copy in response to issues raised.

**IMPLICATIONS:**

<b>Achieve Clinical Excellence</b>	Nil
<b>Be Patient Focussed</b>	Nil
<b>Engaged Staff</b>	Nil

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

The Board of Directors is asked to **NOTE** the Assurance Framework.

**APPROVAL PROCESS**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Presented</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Date</b>
Audit Committee	12.4.11	12.4.11	12.4.11
TEG	13.4.11	13.4.11	13.4.11
Board Meeting	20.4.11		

<sup>1</sup> Status: A = Approval  
A\* = Approval & Requiring Board Approval  
D = Debate  
N = Note

<sup>2</sup> Against the three pillars (aims) of the STH Corporate Strategy 2008-2011