

Appendix 2

Definition of Risks

Clinical risks

These are risks whose causes or effects are primarily related to the health and well being of service users or the provision of care to them. This includes risks relating to: standards of care, consent to treatment, working beyond competence, individual risks e.g. child protection, vulnerable adults communication failure and delay in treatment. Some clinical risks also relate to the maintenance of the physical environment such as self-harm risks related to environmental features, failures of medical equipment and failure of clinical waste management.

One of the key risk management activities undertaken within the Trust is that of clinical risk assessment and management of individual service users which feeds into the Care Programme Approach (CPA) arrangements, the outcome of which is a tailored plan of care for the service user. Refer to CPA Policy, Clinical Risk Assessment & Management Policy.

Health and Safety Risks

These are risks which potentially affect the health or safety of any person as a result of environmental factors or corporate factors. This includes risks relating to: health and safety obligations, unsafe systems of work, Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH), inadequate provision of information, instruction, training or supervision or failure to provide a safe workplace.

Organisational Risk

Organisational risks are defined as those risks which primarily relate to the way in which the Trust is organised, managed and governed. This may include risk related to communication, the business plan, equal opportunities, provision of services, data protection, human resource issues and corporate governance. Refer to Performance Management Strategy.

Financial Risks

Financial risks are defined as those whose principal effect would be a financial loss or lost opportunity to deliver financial gain. Examples include poor financial control, and fraud.

Information Security Risks

Any breach of confidentiality/deliberate or inadvertent disclosure of person identifiable /sensitive information to those outside the "need to know" requirements. Loss of data – loss, theft or destruction of records held by the Trust in whatever form (paper/electronic).

Third Party Risks

Risks to public stakeholders are managed through a formal review processes with the Strategic Health Authority and the local Primary Care Trust's through joint actions on specific issues such as emergency planning, and through scrutiny meetings with Local Authorities.

Event Risks

These risks relate to happenings outside of the control of the Trust for example environmental disasters such as floods, acts of terrorism and major epidemics.

Reputation Risks

Reputation is the perception that others have about an organisation. It is a measure of the success of the Trust's ability to function within its local community and more broadly within its specialist area. Any risk to the Trust's reputation means the risk of losing public confidence. A serious service failure or clinical incident could effect the Trust's reputation and credibility with partners and commissioners furthermore, It could also increase litigation and reduce income through contract changes and patient choice.