In Assuring Projects and Change, you may wish to Consider these 5 Principles:

1. Keep it Sufficient but Simple.

We all know the aim is to ensure we get the right things, done well … the tricky part is how to do that whilst reducing the burden on the organisation. As complexity increases, assurance usually increases too. Keeping things sufficient but simple is key.

2. Support the 1st Line of Defence.

Adopt a 3-Lines of Defence (3-LOD) Model (Ref: FERMA/ ECIIA / IIA) but know that 4 of the Top 5 Challenges in Assurance happen at the 1st Line. (Ref: Deloitte, 'World Class Risk Assurance.')
It seems – fix the 1st Line and you're doing better than most!
Elements of Agile Success / Agility may be, in part, as a result of 1st LOD Focus?

3. Use Social Science.

Consider 'Which areas of social science can we adopt to ensure the behaviours we need?' See Project Leader's separate work on; Behavioural change in projects & transformation. ("It takes Head, Heart & Feet to help people Change.")

4. Invest in Improvement.

Plan to improve.
Simplify where possible.
Optimise intervention points and have value-adding interventions only.
Ask "What can be automated?"
Know that a 'Green' RAG Status still means things can be improved.
Invest in stakeholder engagement.
Lean Methods and Visualisation help.

5. Invest in your Assurance Culture and Brand.

If you choose not to invest in culture, you'll still have a culture, just not one that is maximised to help!
With regard to culture & brand, it may help to think about where the demand for assurance comes from?

Consider:
- Your assurance; Principles, Values, Position (Including what you stand for as well as what you stand against), and Behaviours Required.
And:
- How to encourage "Speaking Truth to Power". (Through Trust & Psychological Safety).
- How to encourage "No Surprises at Review". (Through Pre-loading Audience).
- How interventions "Constructively Challenge the 'Green' and Support the 'Red'".

**Assurance is just one element
of the 'Governance' Step
within the Project Leader 9-Track Capability Model.**

If you'd like to receive a poster that summarises our work on Assurance, you can request it by emailing or calling below.

mail: **hello@ projectleader.net**
website: **www.projectleader.net**
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This is also an opportunity to be a proactive leader and book a 15-minute Microsoft Teams call - click the link below or use the QR code to claim your call:

https://calendly.com/projectleader/15min

If you book a call you'll receive:

- Personalised, free, confidential help on the 36 traits to become a brilliant leader in projects or change or the 16 power skills for senior executives.

- A quick review of any particular challenge you or your team are facing.

- Insight on the Project Leader 9-Track Capability Model.

Project Leader run programmes on the themes below, that you and your team can join:

**Becoming Better Leaders & Managers.
Developing High-Performing Project & Change Teams.
Working Smarter .**

or we can create something special, just for you.