

TRUST BOARD IN PUBLIC		Date: 31st August 2017	
		Agenda Item: 2.2	
REPORT TITLE:		Safety & Quality Committee Chair Update	
NON-EXECUTIVE SPONSOR:		Richard Shaw Chair Safety & Quality Committee	
REPORT AUTHOR (s):		Richard Shaw Chair Safety & Quality Committee	
REPORT DISCUSSED PREVIOUSLY: (name of sub-committee/group & date)		n/a	
Action Required:			
Approval ()	Discussion ()	Assurance (✓)	
Purpose of Report:			
To provide an update of the activities of the safety and quality committee.			
Summary of key issues			
The report provides a summary of the key agenda items discussed at the Safety and Quality Committee in August 2017. The meeting focused on assurance reports across a range of service areas.			
Recommendation:			
The Board is asked to note the report.			
Relationship to Trust Strategic Objectives & Assurance Framework:			
SO1: Safe – Deliver safe, high quality care <i>and improving</i> services which pursue perfection and be in the top 25% of our peers SO2: Effective – As a teaching hospital, deliver effective and improving sustainable clinical services within the local health economy SO3: Caring – Work <i>with compassion</i> in partnership with patients, staff, families, carers <i>and community partners</i>			
Corporate Impact Assessment:			
Legal and regulatory impact	Compliance with CQC, MHRA and Audit Commission		
Financial impact	Serious incidents often become claims		
Patient Experience/Engagement	Included in the report		
Risk & Performance Management	Reporting, investigation and learning from serious incidents informs risk management		
NHS Constitution/Equality & Diversity/Communication	Included in the report		

Attachment:
N/A

TRUST BOARD REPORT – 31ST August 2017 SAFETY & QUALITY COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATE

The Safety and Quality Committee met on 3rd August 2017.

ECQR and CQRM

The committee was pleased to note the reduction in the annual total of SIs identified by complaints, as a good indication that the Trust is increasingly effective at reporting SIs. There was also agreement that it would be helpful for NEDs to increase their visibility in the Trust.

No issues were escalated from CQRM to the single performance conversation.

CQUIN

The committee maintained its focus on sepsis and efforts to reduce consumption of anti-biotics per 1000 admissions. It was noted that implementation of Electronic Prescribing and Medicines Administration (EPR) was an important part of the action plan. There has been some delay in this as the Department of Health has not yet released the agreed funding, but the Trust was expecting to roll-out the programme from December. Other initiatives are also being taken, such as appointing ward champions from nursing and medical staff, and improvements in assessment areas and ICU.

Discussion also focused on the CQUIN relating to patients with mental health needs who present to ED, and on emergency data quality in promoting proactive and safe discharge. The Committee took reasonable assurance from the actions being taken, while noting the challenges that remain in meeting the CQUIN targets.

Quality Report

The committee received the monthly quality report and sought assurance on a number of issues arising:

- Falls Data: SQC sought assurance on the correlation of data between falls per 1000 bed days and falls with harm. Falls with harm data can vary from one trust to another depending on its assessment of “harm”. SASH sets a low threshold and can therefore expect higher relative numbers of falls with harm
- Open Visiting: SQC welcomed the report that open visiting is in place in most wards – with some exceptions such as the stroke ward – and that the initiative appears to have resulted in a reduction of complaints about communication. There was good assurance that the Trust is addressing issues such as confidentiality on ward rounds.
- Use of Escalation beds: SQC noted that escalation beds were in use in every month of the year, and sought assurance about the impact. Assurance was received that risks are constantly monitored. The Committee was pleased that escalation was an important part of the new work on outcomes.
- Safety Thermometer data and reporting: SQC welcomed the close attention being given to Safety Thermometer performance and reporting. It was suggested that the Quality report could helpfully bring together the different components of the measure in its presentation.
- Referrals from the Board: It was agreed that the Trust Board should continue to refer to SQC quality issues that arise from its consideration of the Integrated Performance Report. This will enable SQC to discuss them in more depth and report back to the Board on the assurance it has received.

Assurance Reports

SQC received summary quarterly assurance reports on the following areas: Patient Experience, Complaints, Incidents, Children's Safeguarding, Adults' Safeguarding, Falls, Infection Control, Mortality and Clinical Audit. The purpose is to obtain a quick overview of these areas for assurance purposes. A number of these areas have been discussed as substantive agenda items at SQC in recent months. The Committee took good or reasonable assurance across all areas, noting in particular the following challenges:

- The pressure on PALS to cope with patient concerns and data entry requirements; but also the overall decrease in complaints and re-opened complaints, which is indicative of improved communications;
- The welcome decline in SIs, but challenge of achieving full compliance with the Duty of Candour for moderate incidents;
- The challenge of providing appropriate and fit-for-purpose training on Children's Safeguarding;
- The level of pressures in the Trust increases challenges for infection control; there is also a need to strengthen cross-system working in view of the increasing incidence of C-Diff carriers in the community. SQC has requested a report on Infection Control as a substantive item.

CQC Insight

The CQC has ended the "Intelligent Monitoring" reports, which used to provide an external perspective of risk for the Trust. These reports assessed the Trust at the lowest level of risk. We have been expecting a new approach to be published for some months. CQC has just announced indicators that will be used in this new assessment, and SQC received a short verbal summary. The new assessment, called "CQC Insight", is expected to be in place for October, and the Committee has asked for a report at that time.

Education

SQC received an encouraging progress report from the Chief of Education, which covered six aspects of educational governance – Strategy Development, Apprenticeships, Trainee Nurses, the possibility of a new medical school, results of a GMC survey and a review of MAST training. The Committee acknowledged that education is reflected in the Trust's Risk Register and welcomed the strong focus on these issues.

Next Meeting

The next SQC meeting is at 12.00 noon on Thursday 7th September.

Richard Shaw
Non-Executive Director
Chair Safety & Quality Committee
August 2017