

BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE ASSURANCE REPORT

Presented for:	Information/Escalation/Decision
Committee Name:	Quality Assurance Committee
Presented by:	Sarah Dunnett, Non-Executive Director (Committee Chair)
Date of Committee meeting:	

Points of Escalation

QAC escalates:

- continued concern about mortality (HSMR 106.8, SHMI 115.16), with a focus on ensuring coding issues are rectified, together with any speciality specific reviews: respiratory and perinatal are alerting. A Trust Mortality Strategy is in draft
- slow and unsatisfactory progress on Sepsis compliance pan Trust. The ED Department will be invited to present at the next meeting
- continued challenges within the maternity service, especially around staffing and the need to reflect acuity into staffing numbers
- reduction in numbers of cancer referrals (community-wide issue)
- lack of respiratory clinicians (pan system assistance has been sought).

Key Issues

QAC reviewed:

- Monthly quality report, which included all performance data, including specific dashboards on maternity, sepsis and safeguarding, together with an overview of performance against the Trust-wide quality priorities for 2020/21. Positive performance and improvements seen in VTE, falls, CAUTI, SI investigations, complaints handling and clinical audit. Areas of concern are: outliers on the maternity dashboard, together with a focus on trust-wide maternity improvement plan, mortality both HSMR and SHMI, and Sepsis compliance, particularly in the ED Departments
- Monthly Infection control report, which provided assurance on progress against infection control priorities for 2020/21, compliance against the 10 hygiene code standards and progress against Covid 19 BAF action plan. Cdiff has seen a 40% reduction in 2020/21 compared to prior year. Challenges remain around MRSA decolonisation compliance, water management on the Hinchingsbrooke site and levels of

Risks

**Spotlight
Outstanding
Practice and
Innovation**

- mandatory training. Action plans are in place for all areas of concern
- Scrutinised the draft Quality Account for 2019/20, agreeing that it was consistent with data the committee had received throughout the year, had been independently reviewed by stakeholders, agreeing the minor change to priority 10 b and c, and noting the current focus quality improvement priorities for 2020/21 (albeit subject to slight revision in light of COVID-19 and changing national reporting requirements). QAC recommend the report for approval to Board
 - Six monthly Trust-wide non clinical staff report providing assurance on staffing levels pan Trust, together with many examples of workforce transformations that had taken place during pandemic. The introduction of birth rate plus in maternity remains a focus
 - Reviewed and approved for publication the Clinical Risk Annual report 2019/20
 - Reviewed and approved for publication the Volunteers annual report 2019/20

QAC received the quality risk report and were assured that progress was being made on strengthening the risk management process. 100 % of risks were in date. To highlight:

- Management of water at Hinchingsbrooke, and the risks posed by Covid pandemic remain at the highest rating of 25
- New risks have been added around: reduction in the paediatric footprint, delay in cancer diagnosis due to Covid 19, water ingress in bunker 3 and inability to off load ambulances in line with national standards. All new risks have an adequate level of control
- Further risks are to be added in relation to maternity, and the risk in relating to Sepsis is to be reviewed in light of performance
- A risk associated with poor data quality of mortality coding is being considered.

QAC wish to highlight 3 specific areas:

- The timely production of a comprehensive 2020/21 Annual Quality Account in advance of the November 2020 deadline, with proactive involvement of NEDs and stakeholders
- Volunteers annual report 2019/20 highlighting the tremendous contribution our volunteers make: 560 in total, providing 51,582 hours, and the team that support them. Real examples of innovative ways of working including partnerships with local charities, such as Switch Now, and the young volunteers programme
- Continued success in recruiting to nursing posts throughout the Covid 19 period (vacancy rate July 2020 4.92%).

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