

Escalation and Assurance Report

Report from the: Quality and Safety Committee (QSC)

Date the meeting took place: 17th June 2021

Report to the: Board/Council of Governors

Key discussion points and matters to be escalated from the discussion at the meeting:

Alert:

Advise:

- Following an exceptional escalation to Board, an action plan for psychological therapies (to attend to long waiting lists and staffing challenges) was presented. However, this was a vision document. While the vision is strong, the Committee asked for concrete information on definitive processes, with timelines and proposed outcomes at the next meeting
- The Mental Health Care Group update addressed the continuing pressures experienced through acuity of service-user presentation, and the associated challenge of staff fatigue. Incidents of violence and aggression remain a challenge and the related data requires continuous and careful monitoring
- Advancing the Trust's research activity is a key element in achieving high quality care. The Research and Development Bi-Annual Report raised a particular concern about the ability of the department to manage NIHR funding streams. The process is currently managed (and paid for) through a contractual arrangement with the University of York (as York researchers were co-applicants in the only large-scale NIHR funding obtained by the Trust). The Trust now has further NIHR funding with other external partners and the funding needs effective financial management. This challenge is in the context of NIHR core funding being reduced
- Clinical audit has revealed that only 42% of service users diagnosed with depression have care/crisis plans. Although work has since taken place on care and crisis plans through the Care Trust Way, the Committee have asked for further detail at the next MH Care Group update

Assure:

- There has been significant recruitment to the depleted School Nursing Team (9 posts filled) after a period of concern over staffing ratios
- The new Board Assurance Framework was judged to be clear, logical, responsive, and informative. Executive accountability was clearly demonstrated
- The vaccine programme continues to be highly successful, and the Committee were most impressed by the progress achieved. There are

plans to offer rest periods for those Trust staff involved through expanded allocation of volunteers.

Risks discussed:

- 2370 (Sustained pandemic) and 2102 (Ligature risk)

New risks identified:

Report completed by: Gerry Armitage, Chair & Non-Executive Director

Date: June 17th, 2021