

Escalation and Assurance Report

Report from the: Quality and Safety Committee (QSC)

Date the meeting took place: 16th December 2021

Report to the: Board

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

Alert:

- The content of the Safer Staffing AAA Report once again validated the need for constant vigilance; careful analyses of staffing and safety related metrics; and service user experience. The more significant pressure points remain the Community Nursing Services and the 0-19 Service. The Organisational Risk Register reflects these concerns and demonstrates a range of varied mitigations and strategies to address the pressures. The Committee recognises the particular challenges for our staff and their team leaders, their levels of fatigue, and in some situations the importance of maintaining morale through the various strategies outlined in the Staff Well Being offer.
- Many of the challenges we face as a Trust are replicated in other providers and we acknowledge that NHS staffing remains a critical concern of national leaders. The Committee recognises that some contributory factors are contingent on current, national policies on workforce.

Advise:

- While the Committee recognises the local pressures emanating from the national drive to deliver vaccinations and booster vaccinations, we received considerable reassurance that the implementation and governance processes are both well planned and robust. We were told of the support from volunteers and other agencies in making this programme a success for Bradford. We support the provisional plans to install a separate building and pathway for immunocompromised patients. We are immensely grateful to all who support this vital mission.
- Staffing the Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy team remains a challenge and we were told of the likely extension to the waiting list through a new offer to children with autistic spectrum disorders. We heard of various strategies to recruit and retain such therapists.

Assure:

- We were informed that the Care Quality Commission had confirmed their provisional rating of **Good** for our Trust. The Committee extends its profound gratitude to all staff and service users who made this grading a reality.
- The Biannual Report on Research and Development & Library was received. This clear and well-argued report proposes an increase in investment alongside some restructuring to maintain current momentum and success – moving the organisation's research profile to the next level. The Committee supports the proposals set out by the R&D leader, conditional on the quality of the Business Case.
- We also received the first Bi-Annual Learning Report. This is a well structured and well written report which draws together numerous sources of safety and

<p>quality data to offer a clear picture of our current position as a learning organisation. Non-executive Directors and our Involvement Partner have provided substantial feedback on the first paper in advance, Executive members offered their comments during Committee. Thank you to Rachel Howitt, Head of Patient Safety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We also discussed the QSC Workplan, concluding that further changes may be needed - specific to timing - to accommodate the very considerable weight of business and scrutiny required to build on the positive feedback from the Regulator on organisational governance.
<p><u>Risks discussed:</u></p> <p>2509, 2544, 2535, 2370</p>
<p><u>New risks identified:</u></p>

Report completed by: Gerry Armitage, Chair & Non-Executive Director
Date: December 17th, 2021