

QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Trust Board	Item: 15
Date: 25th May 2022	Enclosure: K
Purpose of the Report:	
This report has been produced for the Trust Board Meeting to provide an update on discussions held at the Quality Assurance Committee in April 2022.	
FOR: Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assurance <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion and input <input type="checkbox"/> Decision/approval <input type="checkbox"/>	
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Risk Implications – Link to Assurance Framework or Corporate Risk Register:	Corporate quality and safety risks are recorded on the risk register
Legal / Regulatory / Reputation Implications:	CQC registration NHS Resolution CNST
Link to Relevant CQC Domain: All	
Safe <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effective <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsive <input type="checkbox"/> Well Led <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Link to Relevant Corporate Objective:	Strategic Objective 1: to deliver quality, patient centred healthcare services with and an excellent reputation.
Document Previously Considered By:	None
Recommendations:	
1. Discuss any concerns with regards to trends highlighted in the report.	

Quality Assurance Committee 16th February 2022
Report for Trust Board 25th May 2022 and

Summary

Assurance was provided on clinical quality through a variety of data sources, verbal reports, presentations and ensuing discussion. Nic Kane, Chief Nurse, gave an update on current activity. Services are under intense pressure as, despite numbers of COVID patients stabilising, the service is still managing a range of competing demands at a time when staff are tired and lacking their usual resilience. Pressure on A&E and difficulties discharging patients into the community are the biggest challenges. A project named nationally as 'the Perfect Week' but at Kingston 'Spring Home for Easter' has had some success at relieving pressures but has also generated some learning. The committee noted their appreciation of all the staff working at Kingston and noted that the key focus at the moment has to be supporting staff and ensuring high quality communication with patients. This is necessary to ensure they understand when they will be seen and any reasons for delays. The committee was assured that there is no evidence of any deterioration in actual treatment.

Regular reports received for 'quality assurance and control' were:

- The February 2022 Integrated Performance Report – this had been discussed at the March Board and was therefore tabled for information.
- The SI reports for March 2022
- The Q4 perinatal mortality report

Ad hoc reports received for 'quality assurance and control' were:

- A report benchmarking the performance of maternity services against the recommendations of the recent MBRRACE (UK Saving Lives Improving Mother's Care 2021) and the MBRRACE Mortality and Perinatal Surveillance Report.

Items considered under Governance were:

- The BAF Trust wide risk register
- The 2021/22 Quality Account
- An update on Patient Safety Partners
- A new form for cluster reporting to the committee

Issues to note

- A question around the well-being of staff in A&E was brought to the meeting and the committee were assured that this is an issue which is already being discussed in the leadership team. Senior members of the team have been visible in A&E and doing clinical work. This is of critical importance as a theme of discussions with staff across the hospital is 'they don't understand'.

Diana Steadman, staff wellbeing chaplain, is working with the team and opportunities for individual debriefs and team discussion groups are in place. Breakfast is being provided.

- KHFT, HRCH and Y HC have worked together to implement an aspect of the NHSE Patient Safety Strategy 2019. This mandates the appointment of Patient Safety Partners. (PSPs). PSPs will attend meetings discussing patient safety and quality and will introduce a strong patient perspective to discussions. Six PSPs have now been recruited. Two are allocated to KHFT and we will be delighted to welcome Sue Strudwick and Natalie Haye to the next meeting of QAC.
- The committee noted that two of the SI's relating to maternity services had an underpinning theme of delays in the induction pathway. The rapid rise in induction rates is a national issue in maternity services and maternity services have been working on an improvement project relating to the pathway. The committee asked that the results of this work be brought to the committee later in the year.
- Mel Whitfield provided the committee with a report on the current work of the CQC and the HSIB. It was helpful for the committee to get a complete picture of how these external bodies scrutinise clinical quality on a regular basis. Recent reports from both bodies have triangulated positively with internal assurance on quality.
- The presentation on maternity services concluded that maternity services comply with the recommendations of the reports noted and that BAME women do not appear to experience poorer outcomes than white women. However the committee noted that the proportion of BAME women using maternity services is small and that this makes it difficult to draw definite conclusions. The maternity service proposes to consider the outcomes experienced by BAME women and women falling into the most vulnerable groups in more detail.
- In relation to the BAF the committee noted that the risk of failing to appoint consultants in elderly care is long standing. The risk is mitigated by the appointment of locums and the committee were pleased to hear that alternative ways of delivering services are being considered e.g. innovative approaches to job planning and consideration of nurse consultant posts.

CLW 20th April 2022