

QUALITY AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Date of meeting:	28 th May 2021
Attendees:	Harjinder Kang (Chair), Kate Thomas, Lesley Writtle, Liam Kennedy, Melanie Roberts, David Carruthers, Parmjit Marok, and Kam Dhami <i>In attendance:</i> Dave Baker, Helen Hurst and Susan Rudd NB: KT chaired the second half of the meeting as HK had to leave to attend a meeting
Apologies:	Chizo Agwu
Key points of discussion relevant to the Board:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 mortality: The findings of an internal review by the Learning from Deaths team in to the higher number of deaths than normal due to COVID-19 deaths were presented. It was noted that the crude in-patient mortality rate for the 2nd wave was lower than the 1st wave and well within control limits when compared to peer Trusts. It was found that mortality rates were equivalent to national data. Diagnosis of COVID after the 2nd FCE has contributed to the Trust's raised HSMR and will continue to do so over the coming months. The factors contributing to a raised HSMR / SHMi are currently under review with further proposals for addressing this being produced. • Safe nursing staffing: The committee discussed the proposed approach to current and on-going recruitment and vacancy management to ensure the Trust has a safe and resilient nursing workforce. Actions implemented to manage staffing across the inpatient wards during the peak of COVID have been stepped down as the nurse to patient ratios have returned to national recommended levels. It is anticipated that over the next 6 months the Trust will have filled the majority of current substantive nursing posts, excluding maternity and hotspot areas. Delays may be experienced with international recruitment candidates from countries where travel has been stopped due to new COVID variants. Future reports will triangulate hotspot areas with quality and safety data to understand the impact of vacancies on services. • Adult and Children Safeguarding: Q4 progress and key challenges facing both services were discussed. The number of <i>Looked after Children</i> remains high (888) with Sandwell having the highest number compared to neighbouring authorities. It is anticipated this number will continue to rise given the impact of COVID and hidden harm emerging. This risk is being actively mitigated most recently by securing funding to appoint 2 wte Band 6 posts with an anticipated start date of June 2021.

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	<p>Funding for additional posts requested within the business case is being pursued. This issue continues to be raised with the Designated Nurse for <i>Looked after Children</i>.</p> <p>Poor practice and application of the MCA in adults has been highlighted in recent SARs, complaints and audits. Improvement measures were presented and discussed and include a focus on Mental Capacity in Safeguarding Level 3 Training. A trajectory for delivery the delayed coercive control training for all maternity staff (300) has been set to happen by the end of December 2021</p>
Positive highlights of note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Matters of concern or key risks to escalate to the Board:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Matters presented for information or noting:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordering tests/results endorsement: Results endorsement (RA) is an important safety process for assurance that tests are seen and acted upon. There remains a lack of clarity amongst clinicians of the expectation of RA despite much communication. The plan to phase out paper reports was presented and the safety net checks needed to gain assurance around ordering and endorsement during movement through the various gateways • Maternity dashboard and neonatal data report: April's data exceptions were presented and discussed. Reference was also made to the 2-day focussed CQC inspection that happened in April. No immediate safety concerns were raised but midwifery staffing was called out as potential risk to patient safety. A report to the June Board will provide the Trust's immediate response to the initial concerns raised. The full report is awaited. • IQPR: The April data highlights were considered. 2 Never Events were reported – (a) Patient unintentionally attached to air instead of Oxygen in ED and (b) Incorrect surgical procedure performed in Ophthalmology. Both incidents are under investigation the final reports will be presented to the Committee.
Decisions made:	None
Actions agreed:	See the action tracker

Harjinder Kang, Non-Executive Director
Chair of the Quality and Safety Committee

For the meeting of the Trust Board scheduled for 9th June 2021