

Quality and Safety Committee

Key summary points from the meeting held on 23rd October 2014:

1. Committee received two assurance reports. The annual report about the Aortic Aneurysm Screening programme showed Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin to be well served by the programme, which is more than meeting all national standards and participation rates. Secondly, our community's "Getting it Right Charter" in respect of healthcare for patients with learning disabilities has also received commendation from external review for its multi-agency co-operation and effective implementation.
2. We are very concerned about the inexorable rise in the number of patients fit for transfer. This is a problem that the CCGs indicated the local health economy would work to resolve. These patients are at significant risk of avoidable harm in hospital when without a clinical reason to remain inpatients. In a knock on effect, emergency patients and people on waiting lists are denied access to the equivalent of four of our wards at present numbers, putting their treatment at risk and requiring us to use "escalation" areas, which cannot always be ideally configured to care for them.
3. With our Director of Infection Prevention and Control, we spent some time reviewing readiness for managing a putative case of Ebola virus infection. We are satisfied that we meet all the requirements laid out in recent guidance from NHS England and through "dry runs" are giving practical training to staff on the front line.
4. We were able to discuss the detailed quality dashboard we have requested from the Emergency Department teams and are satisfied that progress is being made to allow timely oversight of a wide scope of safety and quality parameters in that service as a matter of routine. It is clear that if we were able to make investments in enhanced IT; there would be safety as well as operational and clinical benefits.
5. The Committee relies on the Clinical Governance Executive to oversee a myriad of operational elements of the quality and safety agenda within the Trust and their reports to us give a growing level of confidence in these arrangements across all the care groups.

Dr Simon Walford
Chairman
24th October 2014