

## Quality and Safety Committee

Key summary points from the Quality & Safety Committee Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018

### Winter Pressures

The committee recognised that, over the past few weeks, the hospitals and the wider system have been under considerable pressure. System plans designed to meet the challenge of winter pressures have made a contribution. This has included the Frailty Service, front end GP presence, SATH to Home and improvements to the discharge process. It is the case, however, that these services are not yet realising their predicted capacity or impact. The Trust has frequently exceeded its notional capacity by greater than 100 urgent care patients. The activity has been 5-6% above that predicted, and the case mix has had a high proportion of complex, unwell patients.

SATH staff have been magnificent in demonstrating professionalism, commitment and flexibility. It is essential that the Trust continues to recognise a commitment to be the safest and kindest employer as well as provider. It is important to develop appropriate reporting measures to frequently test morale and illicit feedback.

Despite the impressive response it is the case that patients are at risk of a poorer experience and that a number of risks linked to lower staffing levels (falls, pressure areas and hospital acquired infection) may increase. The committee continues to monitor these and undertook a detailed look at pressure sore reporting and prevention in this meeting with a further follow up planned.

Whilst A+E performance rightly remains under scrutiny. It is important to recognise very positive performance with respect to cancer treatment times and referral to treatment times.

As the committee is charged with oversight of the Board Assurance Risk with regard to winter services planning (1134) we would strongly commend an early "lessons learned review" and the commencement of planning for 2018/19 winter. The system cannot wait until September 2018 before developing and agreeing funding for escalation plans.

### Maternity Services

The Trust has met its public commitment to re-open the Midwife Led Units across Shropshire. Since the beginning of January there have been 3 births across the MLUs. Whilst the closure of units allowed time to consolidate the staffing position, it remains challenging to consistently staff the units, particularly where there is staff sickness. Should consultation on the future model of maternity services be delayed, it will be extremely difficult to maintain full opening of all the units consistently.

The recent issues with the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital MLU with a leaking roof and then snow damage to the building highlight significant issues with the RSH estate which is becoming increasingly decrepit and inconsistent with the delivery of sustainable high-quality care. This, in turn, highlights the need for certainty regarding the Future Fit process to enable real planning regarding the development of the Trust estate.

The committee received an update with respect to the investigation into a Maternal Death. The Trust has rightly commissioned an external review into this which is in progress. The committee were assured of the initial response to this tragic event.

David Lee  
Chairman  
Quality and Safety Committee