

## Quality and Safety Committee

Key summary points from the Q&S meeting held on 16 April 2018:

- **NHS Improvement Governance Review**
  - The Quality and Safety committee has worked closely with NHS Improvement to ensure that best practice has been implemented with respect to the sub-committee's work. The recent NHS Improvement Governance review has challenged SATH further with respect to governance arrangements. In relation to the recommendations from the report the Q&S committee has been considering the recommendations. In particular, we are seeking better integration with the Clinical Governance Executive. The timings of the latter are being changed to better coordinate working.
- **Safe Staffing**
  - Whilst the staffing for both registered nurses and care staff across the hospital appears encouraging there is a high vacancy factor with unscheduled care (86.9 wte) being more adversely affected than scheduled care (44.82 wte). No link has been established between patient incidents and staffing levels within SATH but we know from research that good staffing levels and the presence of senior staff on wards do have a beneficial effect on patient outcomes. Conversely, we might expect that wards where staffing is sub optimal have higher risks of patient falls, pressure ulcers and infections. From a quality and safety perspective it is very important that SATH identifies the optimal bed base and staffs is correctly.
- **Fire Safety**
  - The committee were briefed about arrangements to undertake essential fire safety work on some wards at RSH and this creates the need to vacate these wards for the duration of this work. Plans to do this have been developed, starting with Ward 27 on 8th May, are now in place. SATH managers have worked closely with the local fire service to assure them that necessary action is being implemented within appropriate timescales
- **Women and Children's Services**
  - The reputation of SATH's maternity services has been identified as a key board assurance framework risk. The Q&S committee met again with the care group to assess progress against some key actions;
  - Arrangements for providing oversight on the monitoring of baby's heart tracing during labour are progressing well with a second staff member reviewing traces as a fresh pair of eyes on the maternity unit. The implementation of a technical solution will augment this approach
  - Staff have also received training with respect to the investigation of serious incidents. This training has been well received
  - A number of recent stillbirths were reported and the committee received an initial briefing on these. More formal investigations are in place. One potential theme is the need to encourage women to attend units promptly if they feel that their babies are moving less.
- **Testing A+E plan**
  - Operations staff reported their intention to test the A+E escalation plan at the end of April. This will be a table top exercise but will help to assured Executives and Senior Managers that arrangements are robust.