

SUMMARY FOR QUALITY & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Emergency Department Oversight Meeting Tuesday 9th July 2019

The first Emergency Department Oversight Group (EDOG) meeting was held on Tuesday 9th July 2019. The Board have asked for this group to be set up to act as the assurance group for addressing improvement requirements highlighted by the CQC report (2018) in respect of an Emergency Department service and the rating of inadequate overall. It is also intended to address other quality governance, staffing and performance issues in relation to the Emergency Department Services. This group will report directly to the Quality and Safety Committee and provide a summary of each monthly meeting's formal record and any agreed matters for escalation.

The Chair recognised the pressure of another meeting on the Care Group's time but emphasised the importance of providing assurance to the Board and clarity around any mitigating actions where assurance gaps exist.

The Care Group highlighted the heavy burden placed on the operation by the requirements of external reporting of CQC progress and the performance of the ED function and expressed concern about the additional demand the EDOG might create. This was acknowledged, however it was stressed that better assurance reporting for the Trust Board was essential and that additional reports may not be necessary to provide assurance. It was agreed that work would be done to examine all the current reports to determine the best options to provide the assurance necessary whilst minimising the additional impact on the Care Group. It was also emphasised that the Care Group may be able to derive benefit from having a regular governance route to escalate quality and safety concerns.

The meeting reviewed the draft Terms of Reference and following some changes approved them.

The meeting discussed the key risks and it was acknowledged that the Unscheduled Care Group is facing an increasing demand and under capacity challenge. The Care Group said that to mitigate this risk there are two options, the first to enhance the current care group providing additional capacity, which is their preferred option. The second would be a restructure of the ED function.

The meeting discussed the key matters for escalation to Quality and Safety Committee and agreed to stress the ongoing demand/capacity issues, with particular concern around the availability of middle grade doctor and the resultant rota gaps. It was emphasised that the situation at PRH was close to the situation faced last year when the overnight closure of the PRH Emergency Department was considered.

Tony Carroll
09-07-19