

Board of Directors' Meeting 12 May 2022

Report Executive Lead		086/22					
Executive Lead	Freedom to Speak Up (FTSU) Quarter 4 Report						
	Director of Governance and Commu	unicati	ons				
	Link to strategic pillar:		domain:				
	Our patients and community		Safe				
	Our people		Effective				
	Our service delivery		Caring				
	Our partners		Responsive				
	Our governance		Well Led	\checkmark			
	Report recommendations:		Link to BAF /	risk:			
	For assurance						
	For decision / approval		Link to risk re	egister:			
	For review / discussion	t		-			
	For noting		•				
	For information		-				
	For consent		•				
Presented to:			I				
Dependent upon (if applicable):	N/A						
	The following report provides the FT the annual total.	SU up	odate for Quarter	4 2021/22 ar			
Executive	In total, 66 concerns were raised in Quarter 4, which is a 27% decrease on the previous quarter and a 15% decrease on Q4 20/21.						
Summary:	It also continues the pattern of a decline in concerns raised through the mechanism since Q3 21/22.						
	However overall, the concerns raised in 21/22 are 369 an increas						
	However overall, the concerns raised previous year of 22%.	d in 2'	1/22 are 369 an i	ncrease on tl			
		parate	or of themes ar				
	previous year of 22%. The below tables show a % com speaking up between this year and t <u>Themes</u>	parate	or of themes ar evious year.	nd profession			
	previous year of 22%. The below tables show a % com speaking up between this year and t <u>Themes</u> Behaviours/Attitude	parate	or of themes ar evious year. 20/21 24.5%	nd profession 21/22 37%			
	previous year of 22%. The below tables show a % com speaking up between this year and t <u>Themes</u> Behaviours/Attitude Patient Safety	iparate the pre	or of themes ar evious year. 24.5% 21.5%	nd profession 21/22 37% 15%			
	previous year of 22%. The below tables show a % com speaking up between this year and t <u>Themes</u> Behaviours/Attitude	iparate the pre	or of themes ar evious year. 20/21 24.5%	nd profession 21/22 37%			

	Profession	<u>20/21</u>	<u>21/22</u>
	Nurses	36%	30%
	Admin/Clerical/Cleaning/Catering/Maintena nce/Ancillary	17%	28%
	AHP	11%	19%
	HCA	9%	8%
	Midwives	7%	7%
	Doctors	6%	7%
	The report provides more details on actions ta of the concerns being raised. Further analy annual report at the June Board meeting.		
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – colleague feedback		

Executive Summary

1. Assessment of issues including themes and trends

In Quarter 4, SaTH received 66 contacts through the FTSU mechanism. This is lower than the previous quarter and both Q3 and Q4 quarter have seen a decrease in concerns coming through which bucks the trend of the consistent increase in concerns since Q1 20/21. We are not able to say at this point why there has been a decrease and it maybe a natural plateau, as more concerns are dealt with locally. However, given that our working hypothesis has been the more concerns coming through the mechanism the better it would be unwise to make this assumption.

The previous year's contacts are contained in the table below to enable quarter and year on year comparison.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Increase	National Avg Increase
2021/22	100	113	90	66	369	N/A	N/A
2020/21	41	82	103	78	302	↑208%	26%
2019/20	22	17	57	49	145	个119%	32%
2018/19	10	18	18	20	66	个106%	73%
2017/18	4	7	12	9	32	N/A	N/A

The NGO has not yet released the complete data for the 21/22 period so we are unable to benchmark the increase of concerns at SaTH against the national rise and this should hopefully be available for the annual report

The NGO requires all Trusts to submit their data to the national portal following the close of a quarter and is submitted in the following categories:

Category	Q1 21/22	Q2 21/22	Q3 21/22	Q4 21/22
Bullying and Harassment	8	4	4	11
Patient Safety	11	33	11	12
Anonymously	1	3	0	1
Detriment	0	0	1	1

However more granular themes for SaTH can be seen in the charts below:

Nature of issue	Qtr1 21/22	Qtr2 21/22	Qtr3 21/22	Qtr4 21/22	Total 21/22
Behavioural /Relationship	46	31	37	21	135
Patient Safety /Quality	11	21	11	12	55
Bullying / Harassment	8	4	4	11	27
Worker Safety	9	12	11	5	37
Policies, procedures, and processes	11	33	22	12	78
Leadership/Management	6	5	1	0	12
Lack of support Covid-19	0	0	0	0	0
PPE/Equipment	0	1	1	0	2
Service Changes	4	2	2	1	9
Cultural	0	0	0	0	0

Other	5	4	1	4	14
Total	100	113	90	66	369

Concerns raised by profession

Profession	Qtr1 21/22	Qtr2 21/22	Qtr3 21/22	Qtr4 21/22	Total 21/22
Nurses	25	30	29	25	109
Administrative / Clerical Workers & Cleaning/Maintenance/Ancillar y	21	20	41	20	102
Allied health professionals (other thanpharmacists)	24	24	10	12	70
Healthcare assistants	6	15	3	5	29
Doctors	13	7	3	1	24
Midwives	10	14	1	0	25
Corporate service staff	0	0	3	0	3
Other	1	3	0	3	7
Total	100	113	90	66	369

Profession	Number s who have spoken up in Q4	Total head count @ SaTH	% of that profession in Trust who have raised a concern Q1	% of that profession in Trust who have raised a concern Q2	% of that professio n in Trust who have raised a concern Q3	% of that professio n in Trust who have raised a concern Q4
Nurses	25	1683	1.4%	1.8%	1.7%	1.4%
Administrative / Clerical workers /Maintenance/Ancillar y/Cleaning	20	2047	1.02%	1.03%	2%	1%
Allied health professionals including pharmacists and health care scientists.	12	690	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	1.7%
Healthcare assistants	5	781	0.8%	0.8%	0.4%	0.6%
Doctors	1	626	2.1%	2.1%	0.5 %	0.2%
Midwives	0	285	3.5%	3.5%	0.35%	0%
Corporate service staff	Included as admin/cleric al staff	Included as admin/cle	Included as admin/clerical staff	Included as admin/clerical staff	Included as admin/clerical staff	0%

		rical staff				
Other	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3
Total	66					

Contacts	Qtr2 20/21	• • •	Qtr4 20/21	Qtr1 21/22	Qtr2 21/22	Qtr3 21/22	Qtr4 21/22	Total
Open	3	2	14	23	35	44	54	174
Closed	79	99	64	77	78	47	12	496

Overall, up until the end of Quarter 4, 174 contacts remain open. Broken down by year; 19 contacts out of 302 in 20/21 remain open, which is three less open than reported last quarter and out of 369 contacts in 21/22 at the close of the quarter 174 contacts remain open and we continue to work towards concluding these with colleagues.

Reasons for open cases are:

- Complex employee relations issues.
- Complex cultural change in areas takes time to embed and therefore following up can be a further three six months after the issue is dealt with.
- Patient care issues due to challenged staffing levels exacerbated by COVID19 pandemic
- Sporadic engagement from those who have raised concerns.
- Lack of engagement from those dealing with concerns.
- In a few cases unrealistic expectations of outcomes.

Themes

Behaviours/Relationships/Bullying and Harassment

Nearly half of the contacts made this quarter are about behaviours and relationships and bullying and harassment, and for the purpose of this report have been combined. There has been a notable rise in those reporting bullying and harassment rather than behaviours.

The main staff group speaking up about behaviours are registered nurses of the 32 contacts FTSU received this equates to 25 individual concerns.

Triangulation of data with EDI, staff survey results and the Ockenden report has resulted in an urgent meeting being convened in May to discuss and re-assess our approach to bullying and harassment and behaviours.

Actions taken in response:

- 1. Reports of racism/othering, and FTSU with Workforce colleagues are working towards an 'inclusion ambassador' for the Trust.
- 2. Drop-in sessions by senior managers to be more visible and understand issues of team.
- 3. Colleague escalated to Ward Manager who dealt with the matter promptly.
- 4. Colleagues keeping a 'watching brief' and will raise at 121 with their manager.
- 5. Action plans in place to include leadership training
- 6. Mediation and TRiM support offered to colleagues
- 7. Escalation to senior medical staff for action.
- 8. Meetings with senior nursing colleagues to discuss issues raised.
- 9. Early stages of actions to improve longstanding poor culture in a team.

10. There were also requests of no action as colleagues just wanted to have their voices heard.

Patient Safety

Those speaking up about patient safety in Quarter 4 were a mixture of staff groups. Concerns on patient safety were staffing levels; acuity of patients; working outside of clinical remit; patient care.

8 individual concerns were raised from 12 contacts.

Actions taken to resolve patient safety issues

- 1. Review of ward and interviews with all staff undertaken by senior nursing colleague with associated action plans.
- 2. Staffing levels regular minimum daily checks by matrons on staffing levels and acuity on wards where issues had been raised, escalation to appropriate channels and cross divisional requests put in were needed. Uplifts in areas were needed, better communication about actions being taken to improve staffing levels.
- 3. Improvement suggestion box instigated on ward.
- 4. Dissemination and awareness raising of Care after Death Policy and training provided following gap analysis by the End of Life Team.
- 5. Escalation to senior team and preliminary actions in place.
- 6. Reminder to colleagues about wearing PPE correctly.

Worker Safety

All of the 5 contacts made in Quarter 4 all were individual concerns. A diverse range of issues has been raised which includes health and wellbeing; inappropriate use of Microsoft Teams; compulsory vaccinations; low morale; staffing moves and medical staffing levels.

Actions taken to address issues

- 1. Reminder to colleagues of appropriate use of Microsoft Teams
- 2. Conversations with Divisional Director of Nursing to support staff when faced with abuse by patients.
- 3. Signposting to counselling service
- 4. Repeal of compulsory vaccination for all NHS staff by Department of Health

Policies and Procedures

There was a downturn in concerns coming through, the main staff group raising concerns in this category were nurses, of the 12 contacts FTSU received this equated to 12 individual concerns. Issues included access to mediation; finalising of policies; lack of policies/SOPs etc; understanding of various policies and improvement suggestions

Actions taken to address issues

- 1. Thematic review of an area where SOPs and processes are part of the improvement plan.
- 2. Signposting to mediation
- 3. Finalising and communicating policy.
- 4. Signposting to workforce team to facilitate an exit interview.
- 5. Signposting to relevant teams re: policy explanation
- 6. Assurance around a change management process.
- 7. Signposting to workforce around pay and shift issues
- 8. Improvement suggestion for utilisation of existing estate escalated.
- 9. Temporary staffing team exploring improvements to transfer of DBS checks.

Professional Groups

The professional group to raise most concerns in this quarter were nurses followed by administrative/clerical workers/cleaning/catering/maintenance and ancillary staff.

Nurses:

Over half the contacts in this category were about behaviours and relationships and bullying and harassment followed by policies and procedures; patient safety and worker safety. Of the 25 contacts made this equates to 24 individual concerns.

Actions taken in response:

- 1. Early stages of senior management dealing with culture in a team.
- 2. Supportive and reflective conversations with colleagues to deal with concerns raised
- 3. Consideration being given to an IVF/fertility treatment policy.
- 4. Policy explanation to our international nurse recruits.
- 5. Drop-in sessions on wards to flush out issues.
- 6. Review of ward and interviews with all staff undertaken by senior nursing colleague with associated action plan.
- 7. Staffing levels regular minimum daily checks by matrons on staffing levels and acuity on wards where issues had been raised, escalation to appropriate channels and cross divisional requests put in were needed. Uplifts in areas where needed, better communication about actions being taken to improve staffing levels.
- 8. Improvement suggestion box instigated on ward.
- 9. Exploring inclusion ambassador to combat racism and support BME colleagues to speak up.

Administrative/Clerical Workers/Cleaning/Catering/Maintenance and Ancillary Staff

Over half the contacts in this category were about behaviours and relationships and bullying and harassment. Of the 20 contacts made this equates to 16 concerns.

Actions taken in response:

- 1. Thematic review of area and associated project plan.
- 2. Escalated to senior management and preliminary action taken.
- 3. No action required, colleagues asking to have their voices heard.
- 4. No escalation required by FTSU team, as colleague keeping a watching brief on behaviour.
- 5. Meeting with Executive colleague to express concerns.
- 6. Clear guidance on sharing colleagues' vaccination status.
- 7. Fact-find by management due to breakdown in relationship between 2 colleagues.
- 8. Escalated to senior medical colleagues.
- 9. Self-referral to Occupational Health
- 10. Signposting to Workforce Team for exit interview.
- 11. Signposting to Counselling services
- 12. Signposting to Workforce Advisory Line.
- 13. Reminder to colleagues of appropriate use of Microsoft Teams
- 14. Colleague raised concerns directly with manager on COVID contact policy
- 15. Improvement suggestion for utilisation of existing estate escalated.

Allied Health Professionals including pharmacists

AHP colleagues raised concerns mainly about patient safety, of the 12 contacts made this equates to 6 concerns.

Actions taken in response:

- 1. Substantive member of staff being recruited to assist with culture on the ward.
- 2. Meeting with Clinical Lead to escalate behaviours
- 3. Reassurance given around change management process
- 4. Escalation to senior team and preliminary actions in place to explore reports of working outside clinical remit.
- 5. Colleague raising directly with manager about behaviours of colleague in the team.
- 6. Reminder to colleagues about correct use of PPE.

HCAs and Nursing Assistants

In this category behaviours and relationships and bullying and harassment was highest followed by patient safety policies and procedures and worker safety. Of the 5 contacts made this equates to 5 concerns.

Actions taken in response:

- 1. Signposting to HR advisory line
- 2. Moved HCA to ward where short but also a rolling recruitment for a pool of HCAs is under way.
- 3. Colleague raised concern with senior nursing colleague

Midwives

There were no concerns raised in Quarter 4 by midwifes, which is the first time there has been no approaches to FTSU since Quarter 1 2020. Given the emphasis of speaking up in the Ockenden Report the FTSU team in partnership with our Professional Maternity Advocates have once again begun raising awareness of our services and the multiple routes for speaking out in the Trust.

Doctors

1 concern raised about worker safety.

Action taken in response:

1. Discussed through senior Junior Doctor team and the Guardian of Safe Working wrote to all Junior Doctors to offer support.

Others

This category has 3 concerns raised within it about patient safety and one behaviour, it was also in this category that the anonymous concern falls.

Actions taken in response:

- 1. Dissemination and awareness raising of Care after Death Policy and training provided following gap analysis by the End of Life Team.
- 2. Escalation of behaviours to the senior HRBP for the team.
- 3. No response from colleague who initially contacted the FTSU team.

2.0 Action taken to improve FTSU Culture

In Q4 the FTSU team actively stepped back from being as a visible as they had previously been to focus on the concerns that were coming through and other activities. Nevertheless, in total for the year the FTSU team has done over 800 visits to teams, awareness raising and drop-in sessions.

Other actions taken to improve speaking up culture within the Trust

- Board Development session with FTSU Board Self-Assessment Tool
- Drop-in sessions with Director of Nursing and Chief Executive open to all staff
- Developing Civility and Respect 'social movement' with Head of Culture and Dr Chris Turner currently finalising details.
- FTSU session at Leadership Development 2
- Over 800 visibility visits, awareness raising sessions and drop in for teams in 21/22 from FTSU team.
- 139 values and behaviours workshops have taken place across the trust, 302 teams in total.
- Mandating of speaking up training from 1st June 2022.
- Reviewing and improving of processes more to be done and will be re-evaluating again when new guidance from regulators is released.
- Regular meetings with stakeholders for action and to provide oversight of concerns raised. These include monthly 121's with Chief Executive and Workforce Director; Director of Nursing; Director of Governance and Communication; NED Lead for FTSU, HR, Divisional Director of Nursing, Equality and Diversity Lead; attendance at Junior Doctor Forums; attendance at weekly nursing meeting.
- Presenting at twice monthly corporate induction.
- Improvement of feedback to those who raised concerns.
- Presentations at international nurses and student midwife inductions
- Concerns raised have been acted upon in a timely and appropriate manner and recorded as per the National Guardian Office Guidelines.
- Enhanced promotion of the staff survey which resulted in 45% of colleagues completing the survey.
- Health and wellbeing actions by the Trust through the HWB team Wednesday walk-arounds

National Update

Ockenden Review

The publication on the 30th March of the Ockenden Review into Shrewsbury and Telford Maternity Services focussed on a number of areas. Pertinent to this report is the culture which led to the failings in care and in particular the psychological safety of staff in feeling able to speak up.

Consequently, following this, a number of actions have been taken to consolidate arrangements at the Trust; including:

- Formalising arrangements with PROTECT, formerly Public Concerns at Work; an external, cross sector organisation specialising in speaking up in organisations.
- Further promotion through the Chief Executive's message of the many routes within the organisation where colleagues can raise concerns.
- Discussion with the National Guardians Office on further improvements, which will include a reevaluation of processes and policy on publication of new guidance.
- Non-recurrent funding secured for a 12 month fixed term additional FTSU Guardian
- The Board should be assured that the FTSU team have made contact with other external partners for additional support and advice should we need it.
- Mandating of on-line FTSU training to all staff within the Trust from 1st June 2022.
- Messages to colleagues that it is everyone's duty to speak up and everyone's duty to listen up.

Whilst all the actions above are important and we will do more from a FTSU cultural perspective the most important difference in addressing the speaking up culture positively in maternity has been the appointment of a Director of Midwifery. Of the three tenets of FTSU to embed a great speaking up culture the National Guardian at the time, Dr Henrietta Hughes spoke about to the Board of Directors in June 2021, was that leadership was the most important.

OCKENDEN REPORT - FINAL (ockendenmaternityreview.org.uk)

Staff Survey

The staff survey results have once again shown that there are significant problems with behaviours and bullying and harassment. At the time of writing this report the more granular results by Divisions and Teams had not been published.

Whilst the National Guardians Office has decided not to publish the FTSU Staff Survey Index again this year due to the removal of three of the questions it has historically used, and since 2021 the addition of a new question specific to a Trust's speaking up culture. This report includes the questions which are directly related to speaking up in an organisation, although it must be noted there are other questions which could also be used as indicators too.

YOUR ORGANISATION (CONTINUED)						
21e. I feel safe to speak up about anything that concerns me in this organisation.	2020		202	_	Comparator	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Strongly disagree	173	6%	202	7%	9,713	5%
Disagree	382	14%	474	16%	22,290	10%
Neither agree nor disagree	703	26%	835	28%	52,154	24%
Agree	1,123	42%	1,198	40%	98,272	46%
Strongly agree	303	11%	278	9%	31,319	15%
Missing	27		24		2,275	
Positive Score	539	6	49%		61%	
Negative Score	219	6	23%		15%	
Base	2,68	4	2,987		213,748	
21f. If I spoke up about something that concerned me I am confident my organisation would address my	202	D	2021		Compar	ator
concern.	n	%	n	%	n	%
Strongly disagree	-	-	284	10%	13,120	6%
Disagree	-	-	570	19%	27,767	13%
Neither agree nor disagree	-	-	1,100	37%	70,685	33%
Agree	-	-	840	28%	77,868	36%
Strongly agree	-	-	195	7%	24,144	11%
Missing	-		22		2,439	
Positive Score	-		35	%	489	6
Negative Score	-		29	%	199	6
Base	-		2,9	89	213,5	84

Disappointingly, despite the engagement work by the FTSU team to raise awareness of the FTSU as a culture and mechanism alongside all other routes for speaking up and promotion of the speaking up message through other mediums e.g. Chief Executive's message; monthly Cascade; drop in sessions by the Chief Executive and the Director of Nursing; psychological safety overall within the workplace has reduced by 4%. Whilst the reasons for this are unclear at this point, there is much more to be done and addressing the issue must be a Trust wide cultural and leadership response. Improvements should be considered alongside the three tenets of good speaking up cultures, leadership, engagement, and communication.

To what extent do you agree with the following statements about unsafe clinical practice?						
17a. I would feel secure raising concerns about unsafe clinical practice.	20	20	202	1	Compar	rator
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Strongly disagree	99	4%	105	4%	6,093	3%
Disagree	252	9%	222	7%	11,671	5%
Neither agree nor disagree	672	25%	665	22%	37,752	189
Agree	1,249	47%	1,372	46%	105,545	49%
Strongly agree	411	15%	623	21%	53,106	25%
Missing	28		24		1,856	
Positive Score	62%		679	%	74%	
Negative Score	13	%	11%		8%	
Base	2,6	83	2,987		214,167	
17b. I am confident that my organisation would address my concern.	20	20	202	1	Compar	ator
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Strongly disagree	148	6%	194	6%	10,079	5%
Disagree	328	12%	420	14%	20,574	109
Neither agree nor disagree	1,000	37%	980	33%	59,567	28%
Agree	959	36%	1,031	35%	88,305	419
Strongly agree	248	9%	360	12%	35,159	16%
Missing	28		26		2,339	
Positive Score	45	%	479	%	58%	6
Negative Score	18	%	219	%	149	6
Base	2,6	83	2,98	35	213,6	84

Despite poor scores in question 21e and f as discussed above, encouragingly colleagues feeling safe to raise concerns about unsafe clinical practice has risen, and again looking at the three tenets of good FTSU culture perhaps learning from how our clinical leaders are approaching leadership, engagement and communication could be transferred to other sectors of the organisation.

3.0 Learning and Improvement

Below is a list of high-level detail of learning points from concerns raised with FTSU.

Twilight Senior Nurse Shift

Following concerns raised about staff moving to different wards due to staffing pressures and the uncertainty that ensued, a twilight senior nurse shift was created between 1pm – 9pm on both PRH and RSH sites. The senior nurse would deal exclusively with staffing issues therefore taking the pressure of the Clinical Site team. Feedback from colleagues was that this was working positively.

Volunteers ED

It was highlighted via the Freedom to Speak Up Guardians that delays in flow cause patients to spend longer in the ED department than would normally be required. Often patients are spending an extended period within the department without adequate food or drink. An idea to help overcome this problem was to enlist the assistance of the volunteer team to provide patients with refreshments as required.

The teams engaged with the ED Matron to understand what support volunteers would be able to give. Food hygiene training was then arranged for the volunteers to ensure that they were following the correct procedures when dealing with patients. A team of volunteers were introduced to the department to support patients with their nutrition and hydration requirements.

Resumption of Service

The FTSUG's were approached regarding a service that had been stopped due to COVID. However,18 months later colleagues raised that the service had provided a great support to the public but there were no talks agreed to reinstate it. After escalating it, it was recognised that the service could be restarted and the service resumed at the beginning of the year.

SaTH Feedback

NGO guidance expects that all those who have raised concerns to the FTSUG and ambassadors areto be asked the following questions:

- 1. Given your experience would you speak up again?" Yes/No/Maybe/Don't know
- 2. Please explain your response"

Responses received up until the end of Quarter 4 can be seen at appendix 1.

1.0 Actions

Board to note that a more detailed FTSU improvement action plan is in progress working in conjunction with NHSE/I

Action	Timescale	Who	Status
Complete Board FTSU Self-Assessment	January 2022	FTSU Lead, Executive Team and NEDs	Complete following Board Development Session 17 th February 2022
FTSU Vision and Strategy	February 2022	FTSU Lead, Executive Team and NEDs	Open – Vision and Strategy to come to June 2022 Board
FTSU Database Review and Development	31 st March 2022	FTSU – Lead/IT Developer/External FTSUG	Open In talks with Black Country healthcare to replicate their system which may be made available to the wider healthcare system at nil cost. Black Country Health Care are looking at a third party provider to host the portal and once commissioned, we will pursue this option.

Convene FTSU Steering Group/Summit to triangulate themes with HR/Patient Safety	31 st December 2021 Date adjusted to in line with agreed action plan with NHSE/I	FTSU-Lead/Deputy Head of Workforce/Patient Safety Lead	Open – Triangulation template agreed with NHSE/I. Second tranche of triangulation data currently being worked upon.
Review FTSU Policy	Date tbc – NHSE/I to release further policy guidance, February 2022, SaTH policy reviewed will be in line with this.	FTSU - Lead	Open

Appendix 1 Responses to Feedback Questions

Yes	You do a wonderful job
Yes	At last I feel I can get my life back in order. Thank you so much for all your support, you have been brilliant.
Yes	Thank you for your support over the last year Chan and we know where you are if we need to revisit it.
Yes	Thank you Chan for the brilliant support you gave to me. Thanks to you and your service I have a workable solution.
	Yes Yes