

enabling and empowering people to reach their potential and live fulfilling lives

Summary Report – Trust Board Meeting (Part 1)	Date: 27th March 2013
Report Title: Executive Led Patient Safety Visits	
Agenda Item: 16	Enclosures:
Sponsor; Director of NCAS	Presenter: Director of NCAS
Report Author: Head of Risk and Compliance	
Report discussed previously at:	<i>Quality and Safety Committee</i>

Purpose of the Report and Action required		
To report to the Trust Board on the Patient Safety Visit programme and elicit views on changes to the approach for the forthcoming financial year.	Approval	
	Discussion	X
	Information	

Executive Summary of Key Issues
<p>This report confirms that the Quality and Safety Committee have received a report showing that the systems and processes surrounding executive led patient safety visits are robust and provide a useful conduit for quality improvements as well as continuing to be valued by both executives and staff</p> <p>The report details planned changes to the format of the programme for next year for Board discussion.</p>

Which Strategic Objective does this paper address	
A sustainable value for money business	Yes
Excellent service user access and experience	Yes
Excellent partnership working with other organisations	Yes
Effective engagement and improvement in staff satisfaction	Yes

Link to Fit for the Future Implementation Plan	
<i>Specify objective number</i>	n/a

Recommendations to other committees
n/a

Recommendation/Decision
The Board is recommended to note the report

Executive Led Patient Safety Visits

1. Introduction

1.1. The purpose of this report is to report to the Trust Board on the Patient Safety Visit programme and elicit views on changes to the approach for the forthcoming financial year.

2. Introduction

2.1. Executive led Patient Safety Visits conducted were established to:

- Drive quality and assurance improvements across the Trust.
- Reassure the Board that the Trust's practice is safe, exceeds minimum requirements, meets the reasonable expectations of the public and would satisfy regulators.
- Enable directorate action to be instigated for improvement.
- Provide a vehicle for staff feedback and the evaluation and dissemination of best practice.

2.2. The Quality and Safety Committee received an annual report at its March meeting of patient safety visit activity. This report confirmed that the systems and processes surrounding executive led patient safety visits were robust, had been tested by Internal Audit and that they continue to be valued by both executives and staff. It further showed that no significant risk issues had been identified this year, but that recommendations to improve quality and safety have either been addressed or were in the process of being addressed.

2.3. The report also set out a proposal, agreed by the Trustwide Management Group, to change the approach to Patient Safety Visits for the forthcoming financial year; namely:

- The visits will be renamed as Quality Improvement Visits.
- The focus will shift from "checking" to empowering, ie, looking to the team manager to confirm how it is known services are safe. Any resulting actions and follow through will then sit with that team manager/locality to resolve.
- Given that safety is assumed, the Executive's assessment will be more sensory in nature (how does the unit feel, smell, look, etc) whilst of course making linkages with the Trust's priority quality indicators.
- Reducing the size of the visiting and welcoming teams, so that a NCAS representative is no longer required to help "inspect" and senior SBU/locality representatives are not required to be on hand to perhaps speak for their team manager/staff.

Executive Led Patient Safety Visits

- The report template is relaxed so that Executives are not prompted to ask safety questions, rather free to use their discretion as to how they can best support the team in conducting the visit.

2.4. The Quality and Safety Committee wanted the opportunity to discuss this proposal at Board, particularly recognising the non-executive contribution to the visit programme this year.

3. Introduction

3.1. The Trust Board is asked to note the report and discuss the proposed changes to next year's programme.