

Report to:	Public Board of Directors	Agenda item:	10
Date of Meeting:	12 January 2022		

Title of Report:	Quality Governance Committee Update Report
Status:	For Information
Sponsor:	Nigel Stevens, Non-Executive Director
Author:	Kathryn Kelly, Executive Assistant to Chief Nurse and Director of Strategy
Appendices:	None

Purpose

To update the Board of Directors on the activity of the Quality Governance Committee meeting held on 21st December 2021.

Background

The Quality Governance Committee is one of five assurance Committees supporting the Board of Directors in fulfilling its objectives. The Committee is responsible for testing the robustness and effectiveness of the clinical systems and processes operating within the Trust to provide assurance to the Board of Directors.

Business Undertaken

- BAF Review
- Divisional Governance Reports
- Patient Safety Indicators in Extremis
- Quarterly Incident Report
- Update regarding Maternity & Neonatal Services
- Patient Experience
- Infection Prevention & Control Update

The Committee has restructured its meetings to devote more time to considering and understanding the risks and work of Divisional leads as well as focussing on deep-dives into key risks. Notably in the latest meeting this has generated improved interaction between Committee and divisional leads and allowed longer discussion of maternity, infection control and patient experience.

Key Risks and their impact on the Organisation

- Staffing and infection control remained two of the most significant risks facing the Trust and would be regularly scrutinized by QGC
- Risk 18 on the BAF (Insufficient isolation facilities to prevent the spread of infection and protect people who are susceptible to infection) was considered an infrastructure issue and therefore the lead Committee for this work is the Non-Clinical Governance Committee. However, QGC would continue to monitor carefully given direct impact infection control;
- The Governance Lead, Surgery, confirmed that one of the key issues at present was effectively managing priorities in a risk-based way, given the stresses on the system currently
- The Governance Lead, FASS, reported that the number of open Datix with a low risk was on the increase and the Committee recognised the importance of monitoring this carefully

- Staffing continued to be a key risk for the Trust;
- There was a risk to achieving the Maternity Incentive Scheme this year;
- Infection Control continued to be a high risk going into the next wave of COVID.

Key Decisions and Issues

The Chair noted the following points for escalation to Trust Board:

- Staffing levels remained a real concern across the Trust;
- Infection prevention and control remains a key issue across the hospital.
- Effective communication was central to many of the issues facing the Trust. The committee was key for all services;
- Worries about Omicron and the additional pressures that it will impose on the hospital;
- The lack of hand-held devices for electronic observations was a significant clinical risk;

Exceptions and Challenges

None identified.

Governance and Other Business

The meeting was convened according to the revised Terms of Reference of the Committee.

Future Business

The Quality Governance Committee will continue to follow the work programme as driven from the Board Assurance Framework (BAF) but with a more holistic assessment of overall clinical risks, e.g. currently post-COVID 19 recovery.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board of Directors note this report.