NHS England
North Region

"High quality care for all, now and for future generations"

Regional Quality Surveillance Group

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of the Regional Quality Surveillance Group (QSG) is to systematically bring together the different parts of the system to share information. The QSG will be a proactive forum for collaboration, providing:

- a shared view of risks to quality through sharing intelligence;
- an early warning mechanism of risk about poor quality
- opportunities to coordinate actions to drive improvement, respecting statutory responsibilities of and on-going operational liaison between organisations ; and
- Opportunities to share good practice and learning across and between organisations.

Objectives

The Regional QSG will collectively consider and triangulate information and intelligence to safeguard the quality of care. In particular, the QSG will consider:

- what the data and soft intelligence is indicating about where there might be concerns regarding the quality of services
- where the QSG is most worried about the quality of services
- whether further action is required to address concerns, or collect further information; and
- where there is a lack of information and therefore a need for further consideration and/or information gathering.
- consider specialist commissioning arrangements such as Offender Health

Scope

The Regional QSG will be primarily concerned with NHS commissioned services: those services that are funded by the NHS, including relevant public health services:

- from public, private, not for profit and third sector providers;
- of primary, secondary, and tertiary services;
- operating in the community and in acute settings; and

- of mental health, dentistry, general practice, offender and military health services; and
- Specialised services
- Convening Risk Summits
- Regional responsibility for agreed intervention and escalation such as Rapid Risk reviews and monitoring of resultant outcomes.

They also cover those services commissioned by Local Authorities from the NHS.

The QSG does not have executive powers and will not:

- performance manage Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) or any other organisations
- interfere with the statutory roles of constituent organisations e.g. contractual powers or regulatory responsibilities
- Substitute the need for individual organisations to act promptly when pressing concerns become apparent.

Membership

The **core** membership of the regional QSG will include the following representatives:

- NHS ENGLAND Regional Director (Chair), Nursing Director and Medical Director
- NHS ENGLAND Director of Commissioning Operations (Local QSG Chairs)
- CQC Deputy Chief Inspector
- Monitor Regional Director
- Local Authority representative(s) including regional ADASS Reps.
- NHS Trust Development Authority Director of Delivery and Development and Clinical Quality Director
- Public Health England Regional Director
- Health Education England (via Local Education and Training Board representative)
- Professional Regulators (GMC, NMC)

Other members, such as the NHS Litigation Authority, Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) and Healthwatch may be co-opted to provide support to the Regional QSG as appropriate. NHS ENGLAND (North) Directors of Nursing and Medical Directors are welcome to attend on a regular basis.

Working Arrangements

The QSG will meet quarterly. The frequency of the meetings will be reviewed annually.

NHS England Regional Team will be responsible for:

- providing facilities and technology to support the effective operation of QSGs
- co-ordinating meeting agendas and papers
- providing a record of the discussions and agreed actions, and maintaining suitable records.