

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

23 January 2025

Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust - In-Patient Safety

Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To scrutinise how the Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHT) is ensuring the safety of in-patients as part of delivering its wider Integrated Improvement Plan (IIP).

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked:

- 1) to make any comments or recommendations in response to NHT's report on how it ensures the safety of in-patients; and
- 2) to consider whether any further scrutiny of the issue is required (and, if so, to identify the focus and timescales).

3 Background information

- 3.1 The Care Quality Commission (CQC) carried out a series of unannounced, focused inspections of NHT's mental healthcare service provision across the second half of 2023, as it had received information that raised serious concerns about the safety and quality of these services. The CQC published its reports on 17 January and 1 March 2024, with its overall ratings going down from the 'requires improvement' assessment given previously in 2022 to 'inadequate'. A rapid 'Section 48' review of mental healthcare services was also commissioned by the Secretary of State in January 2024 and the initial outcomes of this were published on 26 March 2024, with a second part to the report published on 13 August 2024.
- 3.2 NHT provided the Committee with an initial briefing on the outcomes of the CQC inspections at its meeting on 11 April 2024 and returned to the following meetings on 16 May and 19 September 2024 to provide updates on the development and delivery of a full IIP in response. NHT is implementing its IIP to address the actions and recommendations arising from the CQC reports, and also from the associated Prevention of Future Death notices issued by the Coroner and other external reviews, with support from the national NHS England Recovery Support Team. The phased IIP focuses on the following areas for improvement:
- Safety
 - Patient Involvement and Patient Experience
 - Staffing

- Leadership
- Clinical Practice Standards
- Governance
- Environments

3.3 The IIP programmes are in the process of moving forward to address the underlying root causes of the most fundamental issues by reviewing priority clinical pathways through working with patients and carers to understand how NHT can improve its clinical models and patient experience; considering how NHT can recruit, train and support its staff to provide consistent levels of patient care and service; and improving the clinical voice and listening to and working with patients in everything that NHT does. Following the meeting on 19 September 2024, NHT agreed with the Committee to bring forward three focused ‘deep dive’ items in early 2025 so that the delivery of improvements in these areas could be considered in greater detail:

- In-Patient Safety (January 2025)
- Patient Involvement (March 2025)
- Crisis Access (May/June 2025)

3.4 In the context of In-Patient Safety, NHT has now implemented a full Patient Safety Response Framework. This reflects the NHS’ approach to developing and maintaining effective systems and processes for responding to patient safety incidents for the purpose of learning and improving patient safety. NHT has established a full patient safety team that includes patient safety partners and senior leads aligned to each Care Group to support learning and the embedding of a safety culture. A Family Liaison service complements this team to ensure that all families involved in incidents are supported, whilst enabling them to be part of the whole review and learning process.

3.5 Although the Committee is not directly scrutinising the activity of the Council, this item does relate to the partnership delivery of the ‘Living Well in Our Communities’ and ‘Serving People Well’ outcomes of the Strategic Council Plan.

4 List of attached information

4.1 Report: NHT Mental Health Inpatient Safety

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

5.1 None

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

6.1 [Care Quality Commission Inspection Reports for NHT](#)

6.2 Reports to, and Minutes of, the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee meetings held on:

- [11 April 2024](#)

- [16 May 2024](#)
- [19 September 2024](#)

7 Wards affected

7.1 All

8 Contact information

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