

Council of Governors (in Public)

Item 9.4

Subject: Patient Safety Partners – Framework for Patient Safety
Date of Meeting: 7th June 2022
Prepared by: Helen Martin, Head of Risk Management/Joan Mathews, Deputy Director of Nursing
Presented by: Sue Pemberton, Director of Nursing, Quality and Safety
Purpose of Report: To Note

1. Executive Summary

The Patient Safety Strategy (2019) aims to provide a vision for NHS organisations to improve patient safety across systems, staff and by involving patients in their own healthcare.

Patients will have more of a voice in healthcare organisations with the development of Patient Safety Partners (PSPs).

Organisations are requested to have recruited two PSPs to the organisation and have them sit on relevant patient safety committees by the end of September 2022 (following the implementation of the ICS and ICB in July 2022).

In addition, LHCH has a desire to involve patients in their own care as much as is practically possible. As a priority, we are aiming to involve patients pre-admission in understanding that falls occur in hospitals and that this can be prevented by implementing simple measures, that may prevent their occurrence and reduce the risk of harm.

This paper sets out the context to the roles and actions to be taken.

2. Background

In July 2019, NHSE produced the Patient Safety Strategy which recognises the importance of involving patients, their families and carers and other lay people in improving the safety of NHS care, as well as the role that patients and carers can have as partners in their own safety.

This Framework for involving patients in patient safety was announced as a key priority in the NHS Patient Safety Strategy. The framework for involving patients in their own safety is split into 2 parts:

Part A - Involving patients in their own safety

The strategy advises that healthcare staff should be supported to encourage patients to be partners in their own healthcare safety. This is being supported by Kate Lambe, Sandra Wilson and Dee Jones working with the QI team. Their first project is falls

prevention and includes approaches to involving patients in their own healthcare and safety.

Part B: Patient safety partner involvement in organisational safety

PSP involvement in organisational safety relates to the role that patients and other lay people can play in supporting and contributing to a healthcare organisation's governance and management processes for patient safety.

Roles for PSPs can therefore include:

- membership of safety and quality committees whose responsibilities include the review and analysis of safety data
- involvement in patient safety improvement projects
- working with organisation Boards to consider how to improve safety
- involvement in staff patient safety training
- participation in investigation oversight groups

PSPs perform a very different role from that of a Governor in a Foundation Trust or a traditional NHS volunteer; however, individuals working in these roles can also be a PSP.

3. Actions

The planned actions are:

1. HR and learning and development to be involved in the design of a Memorandum of understanding for the role of PSP. This should include confidentiality agreement; relevant training; commitment expectations; remit of the role; expenses; inhouse support.
2. The recruitment of the PSP's should reflect the diversity of the local community – consider how and where the position is advertised.
3. Agreement of which safety related committee's the PSP's will sit on. Initial recommendation would be, Learning and Sharing and Infection Prevention committee..

4. Conclusion

The Patient Safety Strategy aims to provide a vision for NHS organisations to improve patient safety across systems, staff and by involving patients in their own healthcare.

Patients will have more of a voice in healthcare organisations with the development of Patient Safety Partners.

5. Recommendations

The Council of Governors is requested to note the report and the actions regarding the recruitment and appointment of Patient Safety Partners.