

## Board of Directors (in Public)

### Item 2.1

**Subject:** Learning from Deaths Dashboard Q3 23/24  
**Date of Meeting:** 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024  
**Presented by:** Dr Raphael Perry – Medical Director  
**Purpose of Report:** For Assurance

BAF Reference	Impact on BAF
BAF 1	Assurance in respect of learning from deaths.

Level of assurance (please tick one) <i>To be used when the content of the report provides evidence of assurance</i>					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Acceptable assurance</b> Controls are suitably designed, with evidence of them being consistently applied and effective in practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Partial assurance</b> Controls are still maturing – evidence shows that further action is required to improve their effectiveness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Low assurance</b> Evidence indicates poor effectiveness of controls

### 1. Executive Summary:

Guidance on learning from deaths was published by the National Quality Board in March 2017 and was presented to the Board of Directors in May 2017. Quarterly reports have been presented to the Board of Directors since.

Deaths are categorised as to the likelihood of being avoidable or not (on balance of probability >/< 50:50) and the data collected centrally each quarter.

This quarterly report presents the mortality dashboard for Q3 23/24 (Appendix 1).

### 2. Background:

The threshold of defining preventable death is on the basis of more likely than not encompassing the categories of definitely avoidable, strong evidence of avoidability and probably avoidable (greater than 50:50). Deaths are classified using the RCP (Royal College of Physicians) methodology unless they occur in individuals with an identified learning disability. In those individuals LeDeR (Learning Disability Mortality Review) methodology is used, and a full review carried out without prior screening.

The mortality review policy was reviewed and updated in October 2021 and the robust mortality review process continues.

All deaths have an initial review by the Deputy Director of Nursing to assess any issues raised by families and carers. In addition, the Medical Examiners and Medical Examiner Officer discuss issues raised by families at the time of death certification. Any concerns raised by the families after a period of reflection are responded to and where appropriate investigated. If the death is considered avoidable or classed as an incident full duty of candour is exercised and the resultant RCA discussed with families.

### **3. Dashboard Q2 2023/24**

There have been 60 deaths in the trust between October and December 2024. For comparison the total number of deaths in the trust for Q2 2022/23 was forty nine. In Q3 forty-five of the deaths have been through the complete mortality review process. There have been no deaths in patients with an identified learning disability. The total quarterly number of deaths remains in the expected range.

In interpreting the attached spreadsheet, it should be borne in mind that there may be an adjustment of the previous quarter's assessment of avoidability. This is because some of the returned full reviews will subsequently have been recalibrated by the mortality review group at their monthly meeting. Some cases rated by reviewer as less than 50:50 may have been deemed avoidable by the MRG and vice-versa.

In Q3 23/24 one death has been classified as an avoidable death.

Of those less than 50:50 in Q3 two deaths (4.4%) were classed probably avoidable but not very likely (RCP4); four deaths (8.9%) were classed as slight evidence of avoidability (RCP5); thirty-eight deaths (84.4%) were classed as definitely not avoidable (RCP6).

#### **Previous years' annual deaths:**

In 22/23 there were a total of 182 deaths. There were six avoidable deaths in the year in total; three classed as probably avoidable >50:50 (RCP3) and three classed as strong evidence of avoidability (RCP 2). The six avoidable deaths constitute 3.4% of all deaths.

In 21/22 there were a total of 223 deaths compared to 191 deaths in 19/20.

The total number of avoidable deaths during 21/22 was ten; three definitely avoidable (RCP 1), three with strong evidence of avoidability (RCP 2) and four probably avoidable (more than 50:50 – RCP 3). This constituted 4.4% of all deaths that year.

### **4. Conclusion:**

The trust complies with national guidance and populates the mortality dashboard. There was one avoidable death in Q3.

Actions from the MRG process will be taken forward by the appropriate division.

### **5. Recommendations:**

The Board of Directors is asked to note the dashboard data for Q3.