



London Ambulance Service



NHS Trust

Annual Quality Account 2014/15



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Introduction

What is a Quality Account?

Since the introduction of the Quality Account in 2009 all NHS Trusts are required to publish quality accounts in accordance with the annual reporting guidance from NHS England. By publishing data, supported by explanation, the aim is to improve transparency for patients and service users on what is working well and what needs further improvement. The key is to provide a balanced report.

Monitor the regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts, state four main aims of Quality Accounts:

A focus on quality improvements: in each organisation: the reports provide an opportunity to set out how the Trust intends to improve its own quality.

Board ownership: this can lead to ambitious board-driven quality improvement priorities, measures and programmes of work.

Engagement with clinicians and patients: the priorities and metrics included in the Quality Account must be relevant and public. Broad engagement in the development of quality reports is needed to meet these requirements.

A wider quality debate: Quality Accounts should provide an opportunity for providers to describe their performance and their improvement goals. In order to give a more comprehensive view on quality we have made the decision to report beyond the minimum requirements. In addition, where possible we have also reported comparative data from other Ambulance Trusts in England. The Quality Account is required to follow a template and report on a set of mandatory items. We have divided our Quality Account into four distinct sections.

- Section 1 contains a statement on quality from the Chief Executive and an introduction to the report.
- Section 2 details the new priorities for improvement identified for 2015/16 and reports progress made against the priorities we identified for improvement in the 2014/15 Quality Account. This section also includes a review of the year and a range of statements of assurance from the Trust Board.
- Section 3 Provides evidence of external assurance and written feedback we have received on the 2014/15 Quality Account

Commissioners

The relationship with our commissioners continues to strengthen. The new operational structure introduced this year reflects the commissioning landscape with seven distinct sectors identified in order to support better local engagement and health improvements. We continue to focus on developing stronger relationships with local commissioners, being more responsive to local needs.

This has been demonstrated in 2014/15 through a successful range of integrated response models piloted in partnership with local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) reflecting local population needs. These include combined community nursing and paramedic



response cars targeting elderly fallers facilitating rapid access to alternative pathways of care, avoiding unnecessary conveyances to Emergency Departments and hospital admissions.

Each year we work with our commissioners to identify commissioning intentions. These then influence the final contract, the key performance indicators and the final projects identified within the Commissioning for Quality and Innovation Framework (CQUIN).

The Trust Board

The Trust Board is accountable for ensuring the Trust consistently provides a safe and high quality service and this is demonstrated by the following

- Nominating the Director of Nursing and Quality as being responsible for bringing quality issues to the attention of the Trust Board and acting as the custodian to quality issues.
- Nominating the Medical Director as being responsible for bringing safety issues to the attention of the Trust Board and acting as the custodian for safety issues
- Prioritising quality on the agenda by ensuring there are, wherever possible, quality issues are placed at the top of the agenda.
- Inviting a patient, or member of staff, to every Trust Board to meet the Trust Board and present a patient or staff experience of the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust.
- Having a Board level committee nominated to focus on quality that has the same status as the audit and finance committees.
- Monitoring the quality of care provided across all our services and routinely measuring and benchmarking services internally and externally where this information is available.
- Proactively looking at any risks to quality and taking prompt mitigating action.
- Challenging poor performance or variation in quality and recognising quality improvement.
- Building a quality culture across the organisation.
- Working to ensure our workforce is valued and motivated and able to deliver high quality care

The Expectations of our Regulators

Our quality regulator is the Care Quality Commission (CQC). They are responsible for setting the minimum standards for quality and safety that people have the right to expect whenever they receive NHS funded care.

The CQC then monitor the provision of healthcare and stipulate a range of minimum standards which are observed through their monitoring programme.

We regularly benchmark ourselves and ensure we are meeting these fundamental standards.

The NHS Trust Development Authority is the body who oversees the transition of NHS Trusts to NHS Foundation Trust status. As a NHS Trust the London Ambulance Service has a relationship with this body. We are required to undertake monthly meetings to assure that



our quality governance meets the expectations of the NHS Trust Development Authority and is fit for purpose as we progress through the Foundation Trust pathway.

Monitoring Quality in 2014/15

The internal quality dashboard and the committee structure which supports the Trust Quality Governance Committee have been reviewed this year. The new structure supports 3 core committees:

- **Clinical Safety and Standards** – chaired by the Medical Director
- **Clinical Development and Professional Standards**– chaired by the Director of Paramedic Education & Development
- **Improving Patient Experience** – chaired by Director of Nursing and Quality

The accompanying quality dashboard provides the quantitative information to be shared at the committees and forms a single source of quality data. The committees will meet bi-monthly and each will produce a summary report to the following meeting of the Quality Governance committee highlighting key assurances, issues and concerns. These committees will also review relevant areas in the Board Assurance Framework (BAF) at their meetings and include areas of concern and action plans in their report.

Feedback from multiple stakeholders was sought, internal and external and a variety of improvements have resulted in regards to the Quality Dashboard, its content, reporting timeframes and narrative.

The dashboard and associated papers are then shared with Commissioners at the monthly Clinical Quality review group (CQRG) meeting and the Trust Development Authority (TDA) at the Integrated Delivery meeting ensuring robust external scrutiny.



Statement on quality from the Chief Executive

This is the sixth Quality Account published by the London Ambulance NHS Trust. It acts as a written review for the public of our Quality during 2014-15 and identifies quality improvement priorities for 2015/16.

In 2014/15, we managed increased demand across London, two national strikes, an increased terrorist threat level, and the busiest winter on record. We also experienced our lowest performance against national ambulance standards, high frontline staff turnover and low levels of staff satisfaction evidenced in our disappointing staff survey results. There are a number of reasons for our under performance last year including increased activity; slow recruitment to vacancies during the first half of the year; high utilisation which makes it difficult for us to respond to peaks in activity; an aging fleet due to historic underinvestment; national shortages of Paramedics at a time when career and market opportunities have opened up for them; and insufficient frontline clinical supervision. The Trust is in the middle of an improvement programme supported by NHS England (London) and the TDA and it is clear that we must continue our drive and pace of change, to tackle these issues and improve our organisation and performance.

Whilst facing these challenges, our primary concern has been and continues to be the safety of the service we provide. It is essential as an organisation that we learn from what we weren't able to deliver and apply that learning to improve services moving forwards. Managing and mitigating against any potential performance impact on patient quality and safety is our fundamental priority. To that end LAS conducted an internal safety review using data collected in October 2014 and analysed in November and also had an external review in December 2014 conducted by NHSE, TDA and Clinical Commissioning Groups.

Our ambulance service Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) continues to be the busiest in the world with our strength in this area reflected once again by receiving two prestigious awards this year; MPDS Centre of Excellence (2014) and the Cabinet Offices' Customer Services Excellence Accreditation (2014) demonstrating the organisations ability to continue delivering quality and excellence despite increasing demand on our services.

2014/15 has seen an extensive programme of change undertaken addressing the major challenges that we are currently facing developed in close consultation with Commissioners: recruit, train, retain, motivate, and invest.

One of the key areas of the Performance Improvement programme is a significant **recruitment exercise**. Between the end of 2014/15 and 2015/16 we will recruit around 850 frontline staff, having already brought 109 Paramedics and 77 TEACs (Trainee Emergency Ambulance Crew) into LAS in Q4 2014/15. The longer term solution we are currently working towards is increased training posts in the UK resulting in more Paramedics entering the service. In the meantime however, we are recruiting in Australia and Ireland and developing the Emergency Ambulance Crew role.

Staff retention strategies covering initiatives like lease cars, cycle-to-work, child-care vouchers, plans to reduce our utilisation rate, annual education and training bursaries, investment in leadership and management development, and working with housing associations and others on cost of living and affordable housing initiatives. Since October we have recruited and trained over 260 new members of frontline line staff.

We continue to develop and diversify our workforce. 2014/15 has seen the introduction of exciting new roles such as the Advanced Paramedic Practitioner and Senior Paramedic. We continue to expand the range of healthcare professionals working within the service



employing Social Workers, acute General Nurses, a Consultant Midwife and Mental Health Nurses.

We have worked with UK universities and increased paramedic places from 150 to 500 this year and continue to engage with Local Education Training Boards (LETBs) to increase the training and development opportunities for staff. This funding will support both clinical career development and support our retention strategy. Our international recruits will bridge the gap while these UK paramedics are being trained.

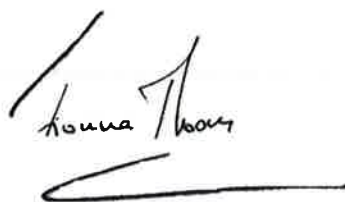
In 2014-15 we have delivered high volumes of **clinical training** as well as bespoke training for a large number of different staff groups including Advanced Paramedic Practitioner training, support for 4 Higher Education Institutes, in house paramedic and Clinical Team Leader training, Emergency Ambulance Crew (EAC) and Patient Transport Service (PTS). We are working with the Health Care Professionals Council to develop our training and qualifications for EACs to progress their career to become a paramedic if they wish to do so.

There are also a number of actions that we are undertaking to **increase capacity and reduce demand**. This includes Hear & Treat which closes 3,500 calls a week, freeing up resources for higher acuity patients as well as introducing alternative transport options for low acuity patients. These initiatives are already in place and are proving to be extremely successful in signposting the patient to the most appropriate care pathway. We are also ensuring that our resources are utilised appropriately and efficiently by making sure that the appropriate number of vehicles are sent to each patient and that they do not spend longer than necessary on each job. These actions will make sure that we are able to prioritise the most seriously ill patients and send them the appropriate response as quickly as possible.

To address a number of the issues moving forwards we have worked with Commissioners to create a Transformation Programme. Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) will invest an additional £18.9m to reduce utilisation; support large scale recruitment campaigns; deliver sustainable performance; improve the quality of service for all our patients; and improve staff morale and productivity.

Our aim for 2015/16 is to rebuild our organisational foundation so that the Trust can achieve sustainable performance, have the right number of motivated, engaged staff in place and continue our journey of continuous improvement.

The London Ambulance Service continues to be one of the busiest ambulance services in the world; with demand for our services increasing year on year. We are an ambitious organisation and will retain our absolute focus on the quality and safety of services so that our patients experience the highest levels of clinical care. To achieve this, we will continue to focus our efforts on building a solid and sustainable organisation; working with commissioners across London to manage demand and improve health services; improving the morale and satisfaction of our staff and increasing the number of frontline staff we employ.



Fionna Moore, Interim Chief Executive



Our Purpose and Values

The London Ambulance Service (LAS) NHS Trust is the busiest ambulance service in the world, responding to over 1.8 million calls each year. Demand across London for our services increases year on year. The increase in life expectancy, people living with long term conditions and the changing health needs across the capital will continue to impact on our services. We recognise the challenges facing the NHS and are clear that we must continue to change and adapt if we are to meet these.

The purpose of the London Ambulance Service is to care for people in London, saving lives; providing care and making sure they get the help they need. Our 5 year strategy **Right Response; Right Care: A strategy for the London Ambulance Service towards 2020** outlines our priorities to support London's increasing and changing needs for care. We will focus our actions this year to build a strong organisational foundation so that we achieve sustainable performance, have the right number of motivated, engaged staff in place and continue our journey of continuous improvement.

Purpose:

The London Ambulance Service is here to care for people in London: saving lives; providing care; and making sure they get the help they need.

Values:

In everything we do, we will provide:

Clinical excellence: Giving our patients the best possible care; leading and sharing best clinical practice; using staff and patient feedback and experience to improve our care.

Care: Helping people when they need us; treating people with compassion, dignity and respect; having pride in our work and our organisation.

Commitment: Setting high standards and delivering against them; supporting our staff to grow, develop and thrive; Learning and growing to deliver continual improvement.

The Trust Board has therefore set four business plan priorities for the year ahead:

- Improve the quality and delivery of our urgent and emergency response
- Make LAS a great place to work
- Improve our organisation and infrastructure
- Develop our leadership and management capabilities.



2015/16 Quality Priorities

It is proposed this year should continue to focus on the areas of:-

- Patient Safety
- Patient Experience
- Clinical Effectiveness & Audit.
- Workforce

For each of these core areas specific elements have been identified.

1/ Patient Safety

Sign up to Safety' campaign

Sign up to Safety is designed to help realise the ambition of making the NHS the safest healthcare system in the world by creating a system devoted to continuous learning and improvement. This ambition is bigger than any individual or organisation and achieving it requires us all to unite behind this common purpose. We need to give patients confidence that we are doing all we can to ensure that the care they receive will be safe and effective at all times.

Sign up to Safety aims to deliver harm free care for every patient, every time, everywhere. It champions openness and honesty and supports everyone to improve the safety of patients. The Trust will develop an operational plan focussed specifically on the sign up to safety commitments:

1. **Putting safety first.** Commit to reduce avoidable harm in the NHS by half and make public our locally developed goals and plans
2. **Continually learning.** Make our organisation more resilient to risks, by acting on the feedback from patients and staff and by constantly measuring and monitoring how safe our services are
3. **Being honest.** Be transparent with people about our progress to tackle patient safety issues and support staff to be candid with patients and their families if something goes wrong
4. **Collaborating.** Take a lead role in supporting local collaborative learning, so that improvements are made across all of the local services that patients use
5. **Being supportive.** Help people understand why things go wrong and how to put them right. Give staff the time and support to improve and celebrate progress.

The Trust has enrolled on the programme for 2015-2016



Maternity

The Trust now employs a Consultant Midwife three days a week, the focus of their work in 2015 – 2016 will be:

Objective	Measurable	Associated Documentation
Strengthening Risk Reporting in Maternity	Obstetric Policy Review Maternity Learning Action Plan Monthly LAS Representation at London Maternity Risk Forum	Morecambe Bay Investigation 2015 Kirkup Report 2015
To deliver multi-professional obstetric training for the pre-hospital setting	Update Training Needs Analysis Monthly Reporting of Staff Completion of Training Scope for Education Plan for 2016	Obstetric Policy Training Needs Analysis
Reviewing Born Before Arrivals (BBA's) attended by LAS	Work with the Clinical Audit and Research Unit (CARU) to quantify BBAs and plan an audit to review preventable and non-preventable incidents Maternity Risk Forum feedback to influence models of care and Commissioners through the Strategic Clinical Leadership Network as a work stream	High Quality Maternity Care 2014
Maternity Advice – A Joint Triage Model with Maternity Services	Review currently available enhanced assessment tools and practices within LAS and other ambulance services Progress closer working with midwives and midwifery units with enhanced assessment to improve patient outcome and experience	High Quality Maternity Care 2014

Frequent Callers

A systematic review of current processes, pathways and resources allocated to supporting the identification and subsequent management of frequent callers within the London Ambulance Service. The Trust will review the effectiveness of current pathways, identifying the barriers to improvement and the elements that enable and support success both at a local and a system wide level to inform future service development and commissioning models.

Whilst this specific group represent a minority of patients they place a significant burden on limited resources at a time when demand for urgent and emergency care systems is steadily increasing. A frequent caller is defined in the National Ambulance Quality Indicators (v13 2014) as someone aged 18 or over who makes 5 or more emergency calls related to individual episodes of care in a month, or 12 or more emergency calls related to individual



episodes of care in 3 months. This equates to approximately 1700 identified patients per month (1300 calling 12 or more times within 3 months) of whom 22% are recurring patients. Analysis for 2012/13 identified a cohort of 783 patients who had called the Trust >24,000

times at an estimated cost to the LAS alone of £5 million. The number of high intensity users has significantly increased during 2013/14 so this figure will also have increased proportionately.

Patients exhibiting behaviours that indicate a reliance on the LAS through frequent calls to the service often have complex social and/or healthcare needs. A retrospective review of data from a two year period (2009-2011) indicated that the majority of frequent callers have multiple and complex reasons for calling, the most common being the requirement for long term chronic physical health conditions, acute or chronic mental health conditions, older age specifically falls and unmet personal or social care needs. As such they often represent the most vulnerable patient groups where current pathways are not providing the most effective outcomes in addition to the significant financial cost to the wider health and social care economy.

Better management of frequent callers directly reduces costs, releases clinical resources and improves the quality of patient care.

The Trust has successfully bid to become part of the Darzi programme and will be appointing a fellow to undertake a critical review of the identification, management and support processes in place for vulnerable adults who have frequent contact with the London Ambulance Service

2/ Patient Experience

Safeguarding processes



Overall self-assessment reveals that the Trust is compliant with Care Quality Commission (CQC) standards for Safeguarding aside from supervision which will be addressed in 2015-16. Prevent has remained a challenge for the Trust this year however with the recent appointment of a lead and a plan being developed this should improve in 2015-2016. Work to implement the Care Act 2014 changes is well advanced and changes have been adopted on time on the 1 April 2015. The Trust needs to develop a more robust system to identify who is compliant or non-compliant with mandatory safeguarding training. The Trust has delivered a wide range of safeguarding training across the Trust on inductions, level 1, level 2 and level 3 during 2014-15. The Trust engaged in a considerable amount of partnership working during 2014-15 and consideration is being given to how this can be maintained and improved with the introduction of the new operational restructure. The Safeguarding governance arrangements within the Trust are working well and providing assurance to the Board.

The Trust will build on this work in 2015 – 2016, in particular ensuring the new care act and the Lampard review recommendations post Savile requirements are met. There will be on-



going focus on training and supervision for staff. Finally the Trust will work with partner agencies to ensure guidance in regards to deprivation of liberty is utilised.

Mental Health

Continue to build on the excellent progress made in 2013/14 in regards to training and education of staff and learning from patients. Key focus area for 2015 – 2016 will be:

- Dementia- identified as a Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) from our commissioners
- Training and Education
- Patient engagement and experience - This is being carried over from last year's Action plan and we will be building on the feedback we get from the on-going focus groups
- LA383 MH Risk Awareness Tool- identified as a CQUIN from our commissioners
- Mental Health Core Performance Indicators
- Mental Health Appropriate Care Pathways

Complaints and PALS

The Trust is committed to listening to and learning from patient feedback as a driver for change and improvement. The main vehicle for this is our Patient Experiences teams, who offer a single point of access and have responsibility for the following work streams

- Complaints
- Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)
- Patients with complex needs who make repeated 999 calls
- Solicitor requests for medical records and witness statements.

The volume of complaints 2014- 2015 has increased by around 24% (an 8% increase was recorded in 2013/14). Each complainant received a response that was personally reviewed and signed by the Chief Executive (or a deputising Director when on leave). Patient complaints are reported to the Trust Board via the Joint Clinical Director's Report which integrates complaints data with patient feedback from PALS and the other clinical work streams, enabling a holistic approach.

PALS offer immediate assistance including liaising with other departments and agencies. During 2014/15, PALS recorded a 3% increase over 2013/14 (3445) with 3567 contacts from patients, carers, relatives and the public.

Timeliness of complaint responses will be a key area for the Trust during 2015-2016.



3/ Clinical Effectiveness and Audit

Every month the Trust submits data to NHS England for the Ambulance Quality Indicators. The clinical outcome measures within these look at the quality of clinical care that we provide to patients who have had a cardiac arrest, heart attack or stroke. In addition, through the ambulance services' National Clinical Performance Indicators benchmark the care that we provide to patients who have had a febrile convulsion, older people who have had a fall, those with a single limb fracture, and those suffering asthma. This year we provided staff feedback to ambulance clinicians on the management of patients with a single limb fracture focussing on immobilisation.

In 2015-16 we will focus on improving care to three different patient groups that we have identified through our national work as requiring attention: recording individual components of the FAST and reducing the time we spend on scene with stroke patients (ensuring they arrive at hospital sooner); giving pain relief, assessing circulation specifically distal to the fracture site and immobilisation for single limb fracture patients, and measuring peak flow for asthma patients.

4/ Workforce

Recruitment: The Trust has developed a recruitment plan to recruit staff locally, nationally and internationally. Local advertising will seek to attract recruits from across London to so that the Trust better represents the communities we serve and improves care accordingly.

Retention: The Trust has developed a comprehensive retention strategy, areas for action include; leadership and management; appraisal; non pay benefits; engagement and recognition and a robust clinical career structure. We will restructure the Human Resources function to ensure dedicated resources are attached to this priority area.

Engagement: The Trust will develop an annual plan of staff engagement activities to better connect with our staff; including: an all staff conference; think tanks and staff forums; a new leadership forum; a new intranet; webinars and films; monthly face to face briefings; and listening events.

Workforce: In 2015/16 our workforce numbers will increase. With investment from Commissioners we will create a new Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service with 150 band 3 staff. Other significant workforce plan movements are:

- Net increase of 105 Paramedic whole time equivalents (WTEs) above existing establishment
- Net Increase of 53 EAC WTEs above existing establishment
- Net Increase of 35 Control Service and Clinical Hub Staff above existing establishment
- Introduction of 150 Non-Emergency Transfer Service Staff.



Training and development will remain a priority over the period of the plan to ensure staff have the appropriate clinical, operational and managerial skills to ensure LAS continues to provide the highest possible standards of care to London.



Statements of assurance from the Board

Statements mandated by NHS England

Each year we are required to report a number of mandatory statements. These are reported in this section.

Data Review

During 2014/15 the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust provided three NHS Services and has reviewed the data available to them on the quality of care in these services.

Income

The income generated by the NHS services reviewed in 2014/15 represents 100 per cent of the total income generated from the provision of NHS services by the London Ambulance Services NHS Trust for 2014/15.

Clinical audit

During 2014/15, two national clinical audits and no national confidential enquiries covered NHS services that the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust provides. During that period, the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust participated in 100% of national clinical audits, which it was eligible to participate in.

The national clinical audits and national confidential enquiries that the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust was eligible to participate in during 2014/15 are as follows:-

NHS England Ambulance Quality Indicators: Clinical Outcome measures covering:

Outcome from cardiac arrest – Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC)

- Outcome from cardiac arrest – Survival to discharge
- Outcome from acute ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI)
- Outcome from stroke

National Clinical Performance Indicators (CPI) programme covering:

- Asthma
- Single limb fracture (trauma)
- Febrile convulsion
- Elderly falls

The national clinical audits that the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust participated in, and for which data collection was completed during 2014/15 are listed below alongside the number of cases submitted to each audit as a percentage of the number of registered cases required by the terms of that audit.



National Clinical Audit	Number of cases eligible for inclusion	Number of cases submitted	Percentage of cases submitted
NHS England AQI: Outcome from cardiac arrest – ROSC a) Overall group b) Utstein comparator group	a) 2838 b) 336	a) 2838 b) 336	100%
NHS England AQI: Outcome from cardiac arrest – Survival to discharge a) Overall group b) Utstein comparator group	a) 2772 b) 311	a) 2772 b) 311	100%
NHS England AQI: Outcome from acute STEMI b) Primary percutaneous coronary intervention (PPCI) delivered within 150 minutes of call. c) Care bundle delivered (includes provision of GTN, aspirin, two pain assessments and analgesia)	b) 650 c) 1877	b) 650 c) 1877	100%
NHS England AQI: Outcome from stroke a) Face Arm Speech Test (FAST) positive stroke patients potentially eligible for thrombolysis, who arrive at a hyper acute stroke centre within 60 minutes of call. b) Care bundle delivered (includes assessment of FAST, blood pressure and blood glucose)	a) 4725 b) 7624	a) 4725 b) 7624	100%
National CPI: Asthma a) Respiratory rate recorded b) PEFr recorded (before treatment) c) SpO ₂ recorded (before treatment) d) Beta-2 agonist recorded e) Oxygen administered f) Care bundle	600	600	100%
National CPI: Single leg fracture (trauma) a) Two pain scores recorded b) Analgesia administered c) SpO ₂ recorded (before treatment) d) Oxygen administered e) Immobilisation of limb recorded f) Assessment of circulation distal to fracture recorded g) Care bundle	600	600	100%
National CPI: Febrile convulsion a) Blood glucose recorded (before treatment) b) Temperature recorded (before treatment) c) SpO ₂ recorded (before treatment) d) Oxygen administered e) Anti convulsant administered f) Temperature management g) Appropriate discharge pathway recorded h) Care bundle	480	480	100%
National CPI: Elderly Falls a) Primary observations recorded b) Recorded assessment of the cause of the fall c) Recent history of falls documented d) 12 Lead ECG assessment e) Recorded assessment of mobility f) Direct referral to an appropriate health professional g) Care bundle	300	300	100%

The reports of the above national clinical audits were reviewed by the provider in 2014/15 and the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust has taken the following actions to improve the quality of healthcare provided:



- Continued clinical education provided to staff through training updates, and reminders in bulletins and newsletters.
- Ensuring that staff have the necessary equipment to perform patient assessments with the provision of personal issue kit where applicable.

The reports of **six local clinical audits** were reviewed by the provider in 2014/15 and the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust intends to take the following actions to improve the quality of healthcare provided against each as detailed below.

Patients that were not conveyed to hospital: Hear & Treat and See & Treat

- Review information on the external website so the public are aware of expected waiting times for lower priority calls
- Amend the standard operating procedure to ensure patients who receive a Hear & Treat assessment know they are speaking to a Paramedic
- Review non-conveyance codes to clarify which codes should be used in which circumstances

Joint Response Unit (JRU) with the Metropolitan Police Service

- Remind staff that a full patient report form is required for all patients not handed over to another LAS clinician to increase availability of complete Joint Response Unit clinical records
- Provide this staff group with on-going feedback on their clinical documentation

Police Attendance

- Publish an article in the internal clinical newsletter to remind staff to report all incidences of aggression and violence towards them, and highlight the importance of recognising that patients who have low blood glucose levels may appear to have drunk alcohol
- Make capacity a higher priority for feedback so more patients who refuse to be transported to hospital have their capacity to do so assessed
- Highlight levels of appropriate safeguarding considerations in monthly reports

Intraosseous (IO) drug administration

- Review whether intravenous and external jugular vein access attempts should still be mandatory prior to an intraosseous attempt
- Revise the current patient report form and include documentation requirements in the drug bag to improve IO procedural documentation

Patients not transported to hospital who re-contact the LAS within 24 hours

- Publish an article in the internal clinical newsletter highlighting the importance of pain assessments and management
- Undertake a continuous review of patients who on second attendance are either taken to hospital with a pre-alert or who have died



Sepsis

- Produce a sepsis screening tool and introduce training to raise awareness of sepsis and how to identify it
- Amend the patient report form to improve documentation of sepsis
- Examine the feasibility of a sepsis pathway for severely septic patients
- Develop a sepsis clinical performance indicator to allow for continual monitoring and improvement

The London Ambulance Service NHS Trust undertakes a programme of local Clinical Performance Indicators that monitors the care provide to seven patient groups and quality assures the documentation on 2.5% of all clinical records completed.

We also undertake four continuous audits that monitor the care provided to every patient who suffers a cardiac arrest, STEMI or stroke, or who have been involved in a major trauma incident.

Participation in clinical research demonstrates the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust's commitment to improving the quality of care we offer and to making our contribution to wider health improvement. Our clinical staff keep up to date with the latest possible treatment options and their active participation in research leads to improved patient outcomes. The number of patients receiving relevant health services provided or sub-contracted by the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust in 2014/15 that were recruited during that period to participate in research approved by a research ethics committee was 98. These patients were recruited into a range of interventional and observational studies. These studies were:

Paramedic SVT: A randomised control trial comparing the safety and efficacy of paramedic treatment of regular supraventricular tachycardia (SVT) using pre-hospital administration of adenosine versus conventional management.

AMICABLE: A prospective observational study comparing the effectiveness of pre-hospital airway strategies on patient outcomes following cardiac arrest.

PARAMEDIC2: A pre-hospital double blind randomised control trial exploring the effectiveness of adrenaline administration on patient outcomes following cardiac arrest.

ARREST: A randomised control trial pilot exploring whether immediate coronary angiography and percutaneous coronary intervention can improve survival from cardiac arrest.

In 2014/15 379 members of clinical staff received protocol training to enable them to participate in interventional and observational research at the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust.



CQUINS

A proportion of London Ambulance Service NHS Trusts income in 2014/15 was conditional on achieving quality improvement goals agreed between the lead Commissioner, Brent CCG on behalf of the pan London CCGs agreement or arrangement with for the provision of relevant health services, through the Commissioning for Quality and Innovation payment framework. Further details of the agreed goals for 2014/15 are detailed below

The details of the agreed goals for 2014/15 were as follows:

Goal Number	Goal Name	Description of goal	Expected financial value of goal (£)
1 (14/15)	Friends and Family Test	Implementation of Friends and Family Test according to the national timetable	£1,289,609
2a (14/15)	Emergency Care Pathways – End of Life Care	Improving the quality of care delivered to people on an end of life care pathway by supporting the plan agreed with the patient.	£967,207
2b (14/15)	Emergency Care Pathways – Community Life Support and Defibrillation for Cardiac Arrest	Improving return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) rates following cardiac arrest through Community and Partnership Engagement	£644,084
2c (14/15)	Emergency Care Pathways – Enhanced falls Service	Ensuring that people who are at risk of falling, or have a history of falling have an appropriate response model from LAS	£644,084
3 (14/15)	Staff awareness and education - mental health and dementia	Improving the care for people with mental health needs and dementia	£967,207
4a (14/15)	Embracing technology to improve care - clinical applications and accessible	Develop a technological solution to ensure that ambulance crews have access to information sources that exist in healthcare settings (e.g. summary care record, Directory of Services, Capacity Management System, Decision Making	£967,207



	information	Software)	
4b (14/15)	Embracing technology to improve care – eAmbulance development	eAmbulance development	£967,207

Details of the agreed CQUIN goals for 2015/16 are as follows:

1	Integrated Care: Improving reporting and use of patient information.	Review the functionality of current patient information available to support the overarching ambition to improve decision making and patient care Identify & address areas to improve access to patient information within LAS process and technical ability
2	Integrated Care: Promoting Use of ACPs	Review the impact of the Pathfinder training already rolled out as part of the 14/15 winter resilience initiative to ensure it is still fit for purpose and aligned to LAS requirements. Implement Pathfinder training across all eligible staff Scope opportunities to develop an appropriate / suitable 'feedback' mechanism on ACPs
3	Sepsis Management	Improving the management of patients with sepsis in the pre hospital setting via a developed sepsis pathway, management toolkit.
4	Staff Development & Retention: Development of Clinical Team Leaders	Develop leadership capabilities in clinical team leaders to ensure the robust management of, and support to frontline staff
5	Mental Health: Improving Mental Health Outcomes	Review the LAS Mental Health Risk Awareness Tool 'Proof of Concept' previously undertaken, to transition into a pilot project that will include 4 partner CCGs pan-London (North, South, East & West)
6	Mental Health: Dementia & Delirium	Undertake a pilot project to identify key areas of improvement in the experience of Dementia patients (and their carers) when using the service
7	Improving Patient Care: Frequently	Develop and agree a project plan for the



	calling patients	identification and management of complicated frequent callers.
8	Improving Patient Care: HCP Pilot	Delivery of a pilot project for a dedicated Health Care Professional (HCP) line and provision of data on GP usage within CCGs.
9	ED Conveyance: Reducing unnecessary ED Conveyance (National CQUIN Requirement)	Reduce rate of ambulance transportations to type 1 and type 2 A&E per 100,000 populations

Patient Safety Incidents

Serious Incidents

In total across 2014/15, 45 incidents were deemed to meet the criteria to be declared as serious to NHS England (London). Each of these 45 have then been subject to thorough investigations, with a root cause of the incident identified, and recommendations to mitigate any future occurrences of the same situation.

8 out of 45 serious incidents (SIs) related to incidents where there was an unexpected death and the investigation looked at the root cause to determine whether this was as a result of patient harm and/or a preventable outcome.

For the second year in a row the numbers declared have increased significantly (17 in 2012/13 and 32 in 2013-14). This reflects a better understanding of the incident reporting process internally, an increasingly robust channel for identifying Serious Incidents and the impact of increasing demand on the Trust during operational pressures.

Increased demand on the service has resulted in an increase in Serious Incidents specifically attributed to Ambulance Delays (19 in 2014/15) as the service has had difficulties responding within the target assigned on triage.

Process and Governance

The SI group membership includes 5 executives and meets weekly. The discussion is open and challenge is robust, to the extent that external observers to this such as the TDA have come away satisfied and impressed with the process. Inquests and complaints are linked to the SI review to ensure a rounded picture to assist decision-making, investigation and reporting.

Each SI has executive and senior management leads who review and sign off the report before it is submitted; we also involve our legal services team and seek external legal advice as required. Ensuring the Duty of Candour is complied with is essential and this now forms an integral part of the discussion for responsibilities when an SI is declared.



Towards the end of 2014/15, a review of the internal process for the management of serious incidents was undertaken with a new SI policy implemented to reflect the additional Duty of Candour requirements on the organisation.

The NHS England clinical safety review that took place in December 2014 provided external assurance on SI management and recommended strengthening the incident reporting process to encourage greater reporting and appropriate actions have been taken to support this. More potential SIs are declared and investigated than 5 years ago. The Quality Governance Committee (QGC) has also taken assurance during 2014/15 on SI management and processes.

Future developments

Although the numbers of SIs declared by the Trust remain lower than some of our peers, this could be seen as a measure of the safety of the service rather than a poor process for capturing errors and incidents. There remain areas upon which we can improve, specifically the length of time it can take to investigate an SI and the level of quality of the report that is produced however significant progress in managing active SIs and improving the reporting time has been evidenced. Further processes are being developed to ensure there is clear focus, visibility and on-going review of all SI recommendations and actions alongside extracting and publishing the lessons learnt from each SI.

Care Quality Commission (CQC)

London Ambulance Service NHS Trust is required to register with the Care Quality Commission and its current registration status is across 3 areas; diagnostic and screening procedures; transport service, triage and medical advice provided remotely; treatment of disease disorder or injury. The Care Quality Commission has not taken enforcement action against the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust during 2014/15.

London Ambulance Service NHS Trust has not participated in any special reviews or investigations by the CQC during 2014/15.

Governance

London Ambulance Service NHS Trust Information Governance Assessment Report overall score for 2014/15 was 84% satisfactory, Level 2 or above evidenced for all requirements and was graded green.

Reporting

London Ambulance Service NHS Trust did not submit records during 2014/15 to the secondary Uses service for inclusion in the Hospital Episode Statistics which are included in the latest published data.

London Ambulance Service NHS Trust was not subject to the Payment by Results clinical coding audit during 2014/15 by the Audit Commission.



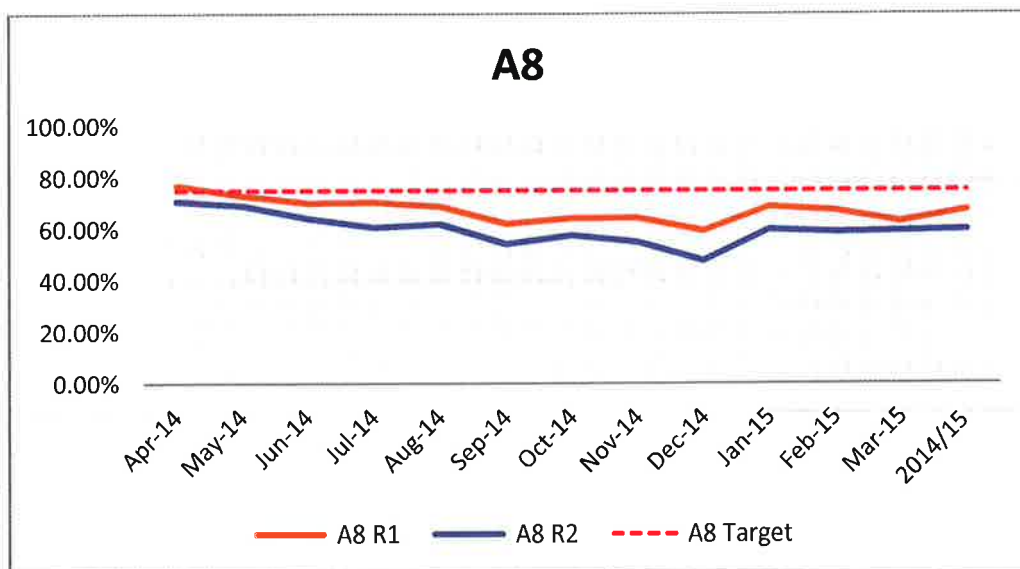
Reporting on core indicators

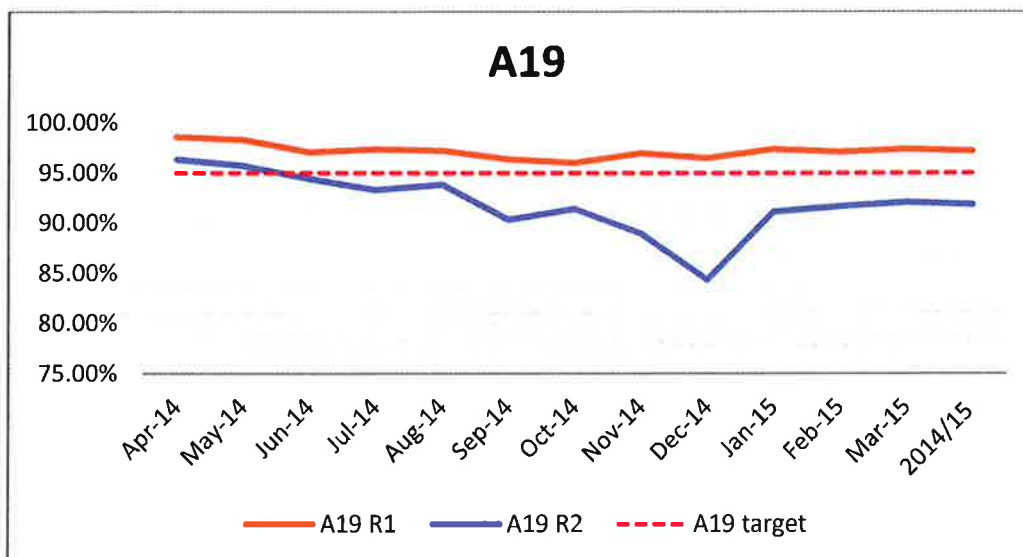
As a Trust we are required to report performance against those core set of indicators relevant to an ambulance provider.

1/ The percentage of Category A telephone calls (Red 1 and Red 2 calls) resulting in an emergency response by the Trust at the scene of the emergency within 8 minutes of receipt of that call during the reporting period.

2/ The percentage of Category A telephone calls resulting in an emergency response by the Trust at the scene of the emergency within 19 minutes of receipt of that call during the reporting period.

Month	A8			A19		
	R1	R2	A	R1	R2	A
Apr-14	77.04%	70.82%	71.02%	98.63%	96.39%	96.46%
May-14	73.02%	69.13%	69.26%	98.33%	95.75%	95.83%
Jun-14	70.13%	64.17%	64.34%	97.07%	94.44%	94.52%
Jul-14	70.39%	60.69%	60.98%	97.37%	93.31%	93.43%
Aug-14	68.70%	61.91%	62.12%	97.25%	93.84%	93.95%
Sep-14	62.03%	54.10%	54.35%	96.37%	90.34%	90.52%
Oct-14	64.12%	57.51%	57.71%	96.03%	91.43%	91.57%
Nov-14	64.25%	54.89%	55.16%	96.99%	88.95%	89.19%
Dec-14	59.26%	47.67%	48.02%	96.52%	84.37%	84.74%
Jan-15	68.57%	59.76%	60.05%	97.40%	91.14%	91.35%
Feb-15	67.12%	58.71%	58.95%	97.12%	91.69%	91.85%
Mar-15	62.72%	59.07%	59.20%	97.39%	92.11%	92.25%
2014/15	67.22%	59.68%	59.92%	97.21%	91.86%	92.02%





3 & 4/ The London Ambulance Service NHS Trust submitted the following information regarding the provision of an appropriate care bundle to STEMI and stroke patients to NHS England for the reporting period 2014/15 and 2013/14.

	2014-15 *		2013-14	
	LAS average	National average (Range)	LAS average	National average (Range)
STEMI patients	72.6	80.7 (70.6 – 89.5)	74.4	80.1 (68.0 – 89.6)
Stroke patients	96.7	97.1 (93.5 – 99.4)	95.2	96.4 (92.4–99.5)

The London Ambulance Service NHS Trust considers that the data in the table above is as described for the following reasons: this data is captured by the LAS from clinical records completed by ambulance staff attending patients as part of on-going clinical quality monitoring in line with the technical guidance for the Ambulance Quality Indicators and reported directly to NHS England.



Review of the Year 2014/15

We use a wide range of indicators to give us a measure of the level of quality we are providing and these are specifically reported later in this publication. However, we also use a number of other indicators to help us triangulate the information. Some of these measures are reported within this section.

Quality Priorities identified for 2014/15

1/ Changing our Front Line Workforce

During 2014/15 we have changed the way we staff our ambulances. The Trust has

- Implemented a skill mix review leading to a revised clinical model (CM). The new CM resulted in the introduction of our new Emergency Ambulance Crew (EAC) role as a support to paramedics. This change involved moving more than 400 staff into this new advanced role
- A new clinical career structure has been introduced with new roles implemented including: Consultant Paramedics; Advanced Paramedic Practitioners (Band 7); Senior Paramedics (Band 6); and revised Clinical Team Leaders (Band 6). This is supporting personal development and career enhancement within LAS and means we can provide advanced, high quality care to our most seriously ill patients.

2/ Changing the way we respond to patients

Historically, we have sent a single responder as well as an ambulance crew to many calls in a bid to ensure the patient receives the quality of care and achieve our response time targets. This is not the most efficient way to utilise our resources; therefore it does not necessarily benefit our patients and it means that staff are regularly cancelled for higher priority calls when en-route to a call. In 2014/15 we routinely reduced the number of resources we send to individual incidents. This measurement is known as the multiple attendance ratio (MAR).

At the point of benchmarking MAR the service was running at 1.41 resources sent to an incident. This initiative to reduce MAR has returned a constant 1.30 MAR. It should be borne in mind that it is not possible to reduce this figure to 1 as our sickest patients will always receive a multiple response in order to provide the best care possible.

It follows that by responding differently we can reduce the number of occasions on which we send 2 or more resources to incidents which will in turn enable us to have more capacity to treat other patients who would otherwise have to wait longer.



3/ Aligning resources to meet demand.

The LAS implemented new rosters for all ambulances and solo responders (Fast Response Units and Cycle Response Units) on 8 September 2014. This change introduced new working patterns of over 2500 frontline clinical staff working across over 70 sites. It was the first pan-London roster review the service has undertaken for over 8 years.

The project was highly complex, involving several rounds of data validation, the use of external rostering contractors and their bespoke software, lengthy development sessions with over 200 representatives of frontline staff, developing and applying new rostering guidance/parameters in line with shift work best practice, multi-disciplinary implementation planning and a comprehensive communications plan to ensure a smooth transition.

The end result is a suite of over 200 rosters, which are designed to maximise operational efficiency by matching the local level of resource deliver (and availability) against jointly commissioned and validated (by the LAS and our commissioners) demand data across each CCG within London.

In addition to matching demand, these rosters introduced, for the first time, protected training time for each staff member working on these rosters, ensuring that the trust's statutory/mandatory training requirements and obligations are provided for.

4/ Recruitment and retention

Our recruitment and retention strategy was a specific focus for 2014/15.

The Trust's major workforce issue remains the recruitment of paramedics and this reflects a national shortage and historic underinvestment in their recruitment. Our staff opinion and friends and family surveys show that we have a significant amount of work to do in relation to our workforce and their morale. The Trust Board has given attention to recruitment, retention and staff engagement, agreeing plans and strategies that set actions for these areas for the year ahead.

Recruitment: The largest recruitment campaign in LAS' history was commenced in 2014/15 resulting in more than 260 new frontline staff joining the Trust before the end of March 2015. Our 'No Ordinary Challenge' campaign saw us going to Australia, New Zealand and Ireland to attract Paramedics. Over 800 more staff will be recruited in 2015/16 enabling us to fill our frontline vacancies. The Trust has developed a recruitment plan to recruit staff locally, nationally and internationally. Local advertising will seek to attract recruits from across London to so that the Trust better represents the communities we serve and improves care accordingly.

Retention: The Trust has developed a comprehensive retention strategy, areas for action include; leadership and management; appraisal; non pay benefits; engagement and recognition and a robust clinical career structure. We will restructure the HR function to ensure dedicated resources are attached to this priority area.



5/ Strengthening the Patient Voice

We identified for 2014/15 the need to strengthen the way in which we involve patients in our decision making and our service design and to seek further opportunities to involve patients by moving towards a culture of “no decision without us”.

The Trust, led in this work by the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) and Public Education Team, took part in **593 patient involvement and public education events/ activities** over this last financial year, which included life support training and cardiac awareness, visits to schools and colleges, knife crime awareness sessions, careers events, road safety, Junior Citizen schemes and first aid sessions with brownies and cubs. There were 14 events recorded specifically for people with mental health problems, 10 for deaf people, seven for older people and four for people with a learning disability. 873 requests for attendance at events were recorded; therefore we were able to meet approximately 68% of requests. Foundation Trust member events have included events on deaf awareness and basic first aid.

This public engagement work is mostly carried out by LAS staff in their own time. There are now **940 members of LAS staff** on the list of staff interested in doing this important work. Feedback from events is routinely sought and is extremely positive, both from event organisers, people attending the events, and the LAS staff involved.

A new **LAS Patient and Communities Engagement Plan** was developed with patient representatives and other stakeholders, and was agreed by the Trust Board in June 2014. The plan aims to build on the Trust’s previous developments in patient involvement and public education, and develop more ways of listening to patients and communities across London. It outlines ways in which the Trust may continue to engage meaningfully with patients and local communities, so that patients and their representatives have a voice.

A **national survey of patients receiving the Hear & Treat service** was published in June 2014. This showed that this group of patients were generally very positive about their experience. A significant finding was that a very high proportion (45%) of respondents reported long-term conditions, disabilities or mental health problems. 54% reported having a condition which caused them difficulty with everyday activities.

The Trust also implemented the **Friends & Family Test** in October 2014, and initial results also show very high levels of satisfaction with the service received by Patient Transport Service and See & Treat patients (i.e. those patients we attend but do not take to hospital).

During the year the Trust also introduced a **Patient Representative Reference Group**, to meet biannually. This group is made up of members of patient representative groups such as Healthwatch organisations from across London, and voluntary sector organisations such as Age UK and the Stroke Association. The first meeting was held in June 2014 and led to the development of the Patient and Communities Engagement Plan. The second was held in December 2014 and focused on how the Trust was managing performance pressures at that time.



The **Patient & Public Involvement (PPI) Committee** continued to meet quarterly, reporting to the Clinical Safety, Development and Effectiveness Committee. This, in turn, reports through the Quality Committee to the Trust Board. During the year, PPI Committee members discussed possible priority target groups for future patient and public engagement. Suggestions included people in 'protected characteristic' groups, people in disadvantaged groups, or those more likely than others to be discriminated against, people with mental health problems, people with dementia, people with long term conditions and pregnant women. A plan and contact list is being developed to engage with these groups, and this will be completed in 2015-16.

In 2014/15 the LAS successfully increased the number of defibrillators in public places across London. The aim of the **Shockingly Easy** campaign is to save lives of patients who suffer cardiac arrests by having more defibrillators available and people trained to use them. The campaign was launched on 1 May 2014 with the aim to put an extra 1,000 defibrillators into high footfall areas, businesses, shops and gyms within a year. After eight months of the campaign it has saved at least 11 Londoners' lives and has installed an extra 650 defibrillators. In the previous year, which was our most successful year at the time, we installed 240 defibrillators. The campaign is continuing to build momentum and we will be making an announcement in due course on its overall success.



Strengthening the staff Voice

We recognise the need to involve our staff in the decisions we make and establish stronger processes for obtaining staff feedback.

We strengthened our staff involvement last year through our Listening into Action programme. We will reflect on this during the year and identify further opportunities recognising the challenges faces as a pan-London mobile Trust. Team talk is how the LAS communicates with all staff and listens to feedback. It is designed to bring managers together with their teams on a monthly basis so that information can be delivered face-to-face, questions asked and feedback collected. The top three issues are Service-related and then managers can add their own items. Engaging with staff is very important to enable us to build our future together

Engagement: The Trust is in the process of finalising an annual plan of staff engagement activities to better connect with our staff; including: an all staff conference; think tanks and staff forums; a new leadership forum; a new intranet; webinars and films; monthly face to face briefings; and listening events.

Improving the care of Mental Health Patients

Mental health care was a key area for quality improvement identified during 2014/15.

a/ Training & education

As part of the of the national “A time for change programme” our Mental Health (MH) clinical advisor continues to deliver face to face sessions for clinical Team Leaders on updates to the Mental Health Act, Mental Capacity Act, emergency detention & retention & mental health risk assessment. This work is on-going and sessions have been well received with excellent feedback from participants.

The Mental Health core skills refresher (CSR) was delivered between September 2014 and April 2015. It provided an opportunity for staff to review and refresh existing knowledge and to provide further updates and guidance in the area of mental health. Key elements covered in the MH CSR Module are, Mental Capacity Act 2005 including Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, capacity & consent, mental disorders, mental health history taking, psychotropic drugs, a brief review of all mental health clinical performance indicators, risk assessment tools, the range of appropriate care pathways (ACPs) for patient with mental health needs and dementia.

The Trust approved a mental health risk awareness tool which was successfully piloted within the Hillingdon complex. The tool is used as an aid to crews’ assessment of patients presenting with mental health issues in conjunction with the crews’ clinical training and holistic view of the patient. The risk assessment tool was included in the CSR content for 2014.

In addition to the in-house material developed, we also provide staff access to e-learning material developed by the Social Care Institute for Excellence which includes an introduction



to mental health and older people, risks and protective factors in older people's mental health, common mental health problems amongst older people, understanding depression in later life and services for older people with mental health problems and dementia.

Further mental health training has been provided to Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) staff through joint working with mental health charities such as Hear Us, a mental health charity we have engaged with over the past year providing 'drop-in' sessions for members of EOC staff to have conversations regarding MH and how to conduct themselves on the phones. EOC staff has also received formal training to help understand Mental Health and illness and how to take control of challenging calls/callers through the charity MIND.

b/ Patient engagement and learning from patients

The Trust set as a priority for 2014/15 focussed work with patient representative groups to determine what good looks like and identify areas of improvement that are important to our patients.



The Mental Health Committee agreed that a new action plan should be developed, in order to improve the service provided to people with mental health problems. A survey was carried out during 2014-15 to identify initial priorities and themes. Again, patient satisfaction levels were fairly high, but the response rate was low with only 59 responses, which was a disappointing return rate. Of these, 61.54% (n=24) stated they had a disability or long-term health condition (e.g. diabetes, asthma, epilepsy, dyslexia, mental health condition), however, only 5.31% (n=9) stated their reason for calling the LAS was mental health related.

It is difficult to draw clear conclusions from such a small sample, but the survey has nonetheless provided some interesting feedback. Themes arising from the feedback are familiar from previous surveys, with the top three being delays, staff attitude and behaviour, and the importance of staff training. As a next step we are now conducting focus groups specifically with people who have mental health problems working with the nine mental health trusts in London, with each of their existing service user groups. Findings from the



focus groups will be used to inform the MH Action plan. It was therefore agreed that a series of focus groups would be held, in different parts of London, with mental health service users. The first of these took place at the end of March 2014 and generated valuable discussion and feedback. A series of further focus groups, including one with LAS staff, is planned for the first part of 2015-16

The Trust has been working closely with Hear Us, a mental health charity in the previous year. We intend to continue this engagement process with the support of our Community Involvement Officers in the development of a patient experience action plan to monitor the impact of any changes.

c/ Data recording for mental health patients

We committed to improve the way we capture and record mental health data to ensure that are capturing the right information so that we can measure the impact of future changes and we therefore reviewed the mental health coding on the patient report form to allow more meaningful data analysis.

The following codes have been subsequently been added to Datix for MH related incidents

- Mental Health - Care and treatment
- Mental Health - Overdose
- Mental Health - Paranoid behaviour
- Mental Health - Staff attitude

d/ Effective partnership working

We identified as a work to further improve our relationship with Mental Health NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts.

LAS took part in a training film which was produced in partnership with the Metropolitan Police (MPS) and South London & the Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust. The aim of the film is to demonstrate successful ways to work together, the roles, relationships and expectations staff should have when working in a multi-agency environment. The film focuses on the use of safe restraint, detection of Acute Behavioural Disturbance (ABD) and best practice. The film will be launched on the 1st October 2014 and there is a commitment from each organisation that this film will be shown to all front line staff, together with a training package that will be delivered by fully trained staff. This university accredited package includes a model specifically for use in mental health settings.

As part of improving joint and partnership working agreements, our Chief Executive, has continued to attend Mental Health Trust Chief Executive meetings to discuss on going issues and any other initiatives to improve partnership working arrangements. We continue to utilise MH Appropriate Care Pathways (ACPs) which are now fully supported by the addition of MH nurses in EOC.

Partnership working arrangements have improved with MH ACPs remaining in place. There is acknowledgement that ACPs have worked well in some areas and not so well in others. Work is in progress via our MH clinical advisor to address the poorly performing MH ACPS as well as the option for LAS to make direct non urgent referrals to MH teams.



Complaints and Patient Advice & Liaison (PALS)

Patient experience and feedback is a rich source of information that allows us to understand whether our services meet the expectations of the patient. We take all patient feedback very seriously and do our best to undertake a fair and thorough investigation so that we can clearly identify the lessons and use these to improve our service, where necessary.

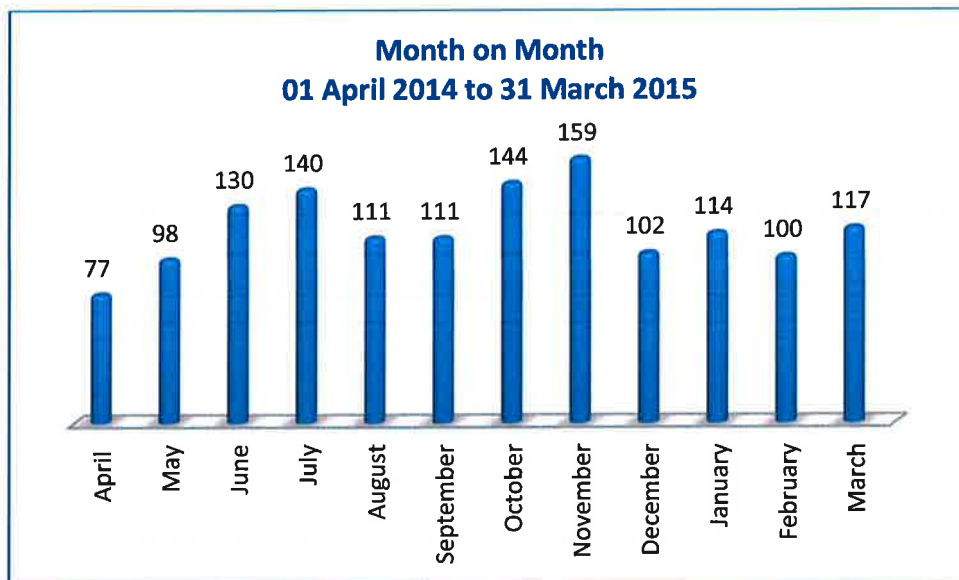
Patient and service user feedback is captured by our Patient Experiences team who identify and report on emerging themes through the Trust's governance structure.

Our complaints process is very comprehensive although the unprecedented 999 demand to the Trust during 2014/15 has witnessed a proportional rise in complaints and enquiries. We also monitor patient feedback websites and accept complaints made by social media. This growth has meant that it has sometimes taken longer than we would like to respond. There are a number of reasons for this, including ambulance crews not being very easily available to discuss particular incidents they have attended and clinical managers having less time to look at the details of the care that has been given in different cases. This has also caused a substantial increase in workload to our Quality Assurance team, the specialist team who evaluate the management of a 999 call. This is vital in understanding what may have caused a delay in an ambulance response, as 999 calls attract different response targets according to the seriousness of the patient's presentation. We have however put in place a range of measures to improve this situation.

We have reviewed our complaints policy and procedure in the wake of the Francis and Clwyd reports and are satisfied that our practice complies with the NHS complaints regulations. We continue to work to the Health Service Ombudsman's 'Principles of Remedy'. For each complaint we receive, we appoint a case officer to identify the key themes. This can involve arranging an evaluation of the 999 call management, liaison with local managers, and comprehensive clinical reviews of the care provided. Cases are graded using a tool to assist in the prioritisation. This is a dynamic process as more information comes to light. This allows a more rapid identification of serious issues that need raising with the Trust's executive management team. Once our investigation is complete, we provide a full explanation and, where appropriate, an apology together with details about recourse to the Health Service Ombudsman and the independent advocacy assistance available. We also fully adhere to the duty of candour and are committed to being fully open and honest about what happened in any case.

All our responses are approved by the Director of Nursing & Quality and signed off by the Chief Executive. The following table demonstrates complaint volumes in 2014/15 when we received 1403 complaints and over 3500 PALS enquiries. The main issues arising from complaints are similar to previous years and are broadly within four categories: delayed response, staff attitude, care and treatment and referral to other care pathways.





Some of the changes we have made include the following:

1. We historically used a tape recorded exit message at the end of some 999 calls which explained what the caller needs to do next. Following patient feedback, this was stopped and callers always now speak to a call handler.
2. We have introduced a procedure to identify particularly vulnerable patients who now received an automatic upgrade to the call priority every 60 minutes, when there is a delay in an ambulance being sent, regardless of whether we are told that their condition has changed. This has meant that patients have not waited as long as they otherwise might have.
3. Patients told us that they don't like not being kept up to date with the progress of their call, so we now offer information about the approximate time a caller may have to wait before an ambulance can be sent.

The Ombudsman continues to investigate an increasing number of cases across the NHS and this reflects an increase in the number of cases the Ombudsman has looked into about complaints about our service, with 14 cases being considered in this way although no recommendations have been made about our complaints procedure.

Patient Centred Action Team

The Patient Centred Action Team (PCAT) is responsible for the management of 'frequent callers', a cohort of patients who present with complex health and/or social needs who place repeated 999 calls.

As of 1 April 2015 a new national definition of a frequent caller has been defined as follows:

- Any one aged 18 or over who calls 5 or more times in 1 month from a private dwelling



- Any one aged 18 or over who calls 12 or more times over a 3 month period from a private dwelling

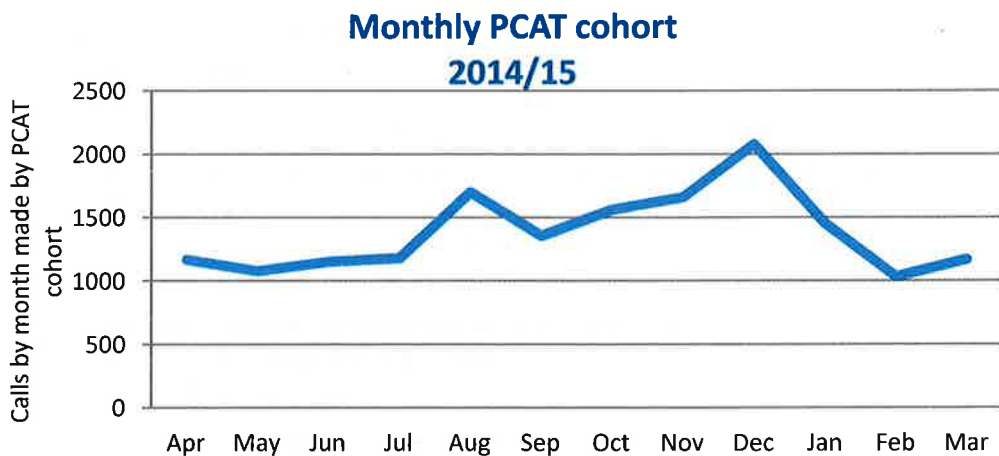
However, given limited resources we continue to use a definition of any patient deemed to be aged 18 or over who calls 999 ten times per month, for three consecutive months, although if any patient has have a profound impact on resources then PCAT will intervene as soon as possible.

We continue to use a care plan approach, developed in conjunction with other agencies and focusing on managing demand more effectively whilst continuing to meet the patient's needs.

Over the year 63 cases were reviewed and closed, with 57 cases 'in progress'. Casework also continued to be undertaken at local level with Community Involvement Officers making a significant contribution. A trial scheme was piloted in six South West London Boroughs where local staff reviews cases local to their complex. This scheme is being sponsored by the local Clinical Commissioning Groups.

PCAT is a participant in the Frequent Caller National Network (FreCaNN) which holds quarterly meetings hosted by UK ambulance trusts. FreCaNN acts as a forum to develop national policy and procedures, and standards and definitions. We are delighted that LAS policy and procedure will be used as the foundation model.

Represents total calls per month by PCAT patient cohort



Patient Engagement

During 2014/15 patient engagement was identified as a quality priority and is reported in more detail in our review of the year (see p24). The Trust took part in 593 patient involvement and public education events/ activities over this last financial year, which included basic life support training and cardiac awareness, visits to schools and colleges, knife crime awareness sessions, careers events, road safety, Junior Citizen schemes and first aid sessions with brownies and cubs.



The Student Voice

The LAS 'Policy for the Supervision of Clinical Staff in Training' sets out the framework and process for the monitoring of student experiences within the LAS clinical training programme. This policy was reviewed and updated in September 2014. The Trust actively seeks student feedback via paper based evaluation methods on all clinical courses delivered throughout the LAS and verbal feedback during course closure sessions. This is in addition to the formal training course materials that include tutorial and reflective record documentation. The policy details the open and transparent approach to student learning within the Trusts clinical education and training framework. This ranges from systems for training documentation that ensure that students are fully involved in the mutual recognition of individual achievements, along with their subsequent progress reports. Furthermore, students are provided with formal 'Reflective Record' documentation that allows for a period of review at the close of each day to highlight any queries or concerns not previously identified.

In addition, all students receive regular tutorials throughout their training programme, and complete paper based evaluation material. However, members of the Clinical Education and Standards management team formally close all clinical courses delivered by the Department. A key purpose of this is to receive direct feedback of student experiences and identify areas which may not have been captured within other procedures.

Equalities

In 2015 the Trust featured as a Top 100 Employer on the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index and was again amongst the top five healthcare organisations and the highest-performing ambulance service.

The Trust actively supports a range of Staff Diversity Forums, including a Deaf Awareness Forum, which has a very visible presence in the community and conducts a wide range of outreach work to schools and colleges, as well as a Disabled Staff/Carers Forum, BME Forum (ADAMAS - Association of Diverse and Minority Ambulance Staff) and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Forum, which set up the country's first LGBT National Ambulance Association.

In this last year, following extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders across different protected characteristic groups, a new Equality and Inclusion Strategy for 2014-19 was produced. This sets out the approach the Trust is taking towards equality and inclusion in regard to its services, procurement, engagement, leadership and commitment and employment and training over the next five years. The strategy will be monitored annually with the help of stakeholders across different protected characteristic groups and reviewed formally in 2019.

In December 2014 the Trust was successful in obtaining an NHS London Leadership Academy grant for ground-breaking Unconscious Bias and Cultural Diversity Awareness training for the new Australian and New Zealand paramedic recruits, which will be rolled out further to other staff across the Trust.



Safety

The London Ambulance Service is committed to patient safety. In October 2014, to assure the Trust Board of the safety of the service, the Medical Directorate conducted a safety review. The findings of the review were presented to the Executive Management Team, Trust Board, NHS England Clinical Governance Committee and Commissioning Clinical Quality Group. In addition, the Trust supported NHS England when conducting their independent external review of safety in December 2014. The Trust has progressed identified actions highlighted in the action plan.

In December 2013 a Clinical Hub was set up which combined the clinical support desk and hear and treat services within LAS. In response to the Francis recommendations the Clinical Hub is staffed by registered healthcare professionals (paramedics and nurses). The clinicians undertake enhanced clinical assessments for lower acuity 999 calls providing advice and referral as appropriate, oversight of higher risk calls waiting for an ambulance dispatch e.g. mental health patients and elderly fallers and providing immediate clinical support by telephone to crews on scene and control room staff.

The LAS receive a large number of calls from the metropolitan police service. We have set up a dedicated desk to manage this call to ensure that appropriate triage and response is provided to these patients and provide support to police colleagues.

A significant number of calls are received from healthcare professionals (community and hospitals). In order to better manage this group of patients, and ensure that we provide an equitable service to patients who have accessed emergency and urgent care through their GP, we piloted a dedicated line to ensure that responses were offered within an appropriate time-frame based on the GP's assessment of their patient. This will be further developed through 2015-16

We have worked closely with all London NHS 111 providers in order to best manage patients with urgent, not emergency, healthcare needs. 999 callers who are categorized as not requiring an immediate emergency ambulance are asked to contact NHS 111 for an enhanced assessment – any patients who are subsequently identified as need an ambulance are then transferred back into the 999 system without the need for further triage and with a clinically appropriate time-frame for the response indicated



Other services - Patient Transport

Patient transport is an important part of our core business and whilst this service has its own dedicated management team it is fully integrated into our quality governance processes

How do we keep our Patient Transport Staff up to date with changes?

PTS Work Based Trainers have been delivering refresher training on key topics such as Basic Life Support and wheelchair harnessing & securing. In addition they have rolled out new equipment such as the Compact 2 Track chair training.

A total of 481 work based training sessions have been delivered to our total workforce of 151 staff.

All operational PTS staff have attended a one day Core Skills Refresher (CSR) course covering statutory and mandatory training topics such as Infection Prevention & Control, Safeguarding and Manual Handling.

What have we done to update our equipment?

During 2014/15 we replaced all our aging FR2 Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) with new Lifepak CR+ machines and all staff have received training.

How have we responded to patients?

2014/15 PTS launched a short user survey given to all patients conveyed, this includes the generic NHS 'Friends and Family' Test. 92% of the patients returning their questionnaires have stated that they were either extremely likely (72%) or likely (20%) to recommend our service. Also 98% of those returning these surveys said our staff were 'polite, caring & considerate' and that our vehicles were 'clean, tidy & comfortable'.

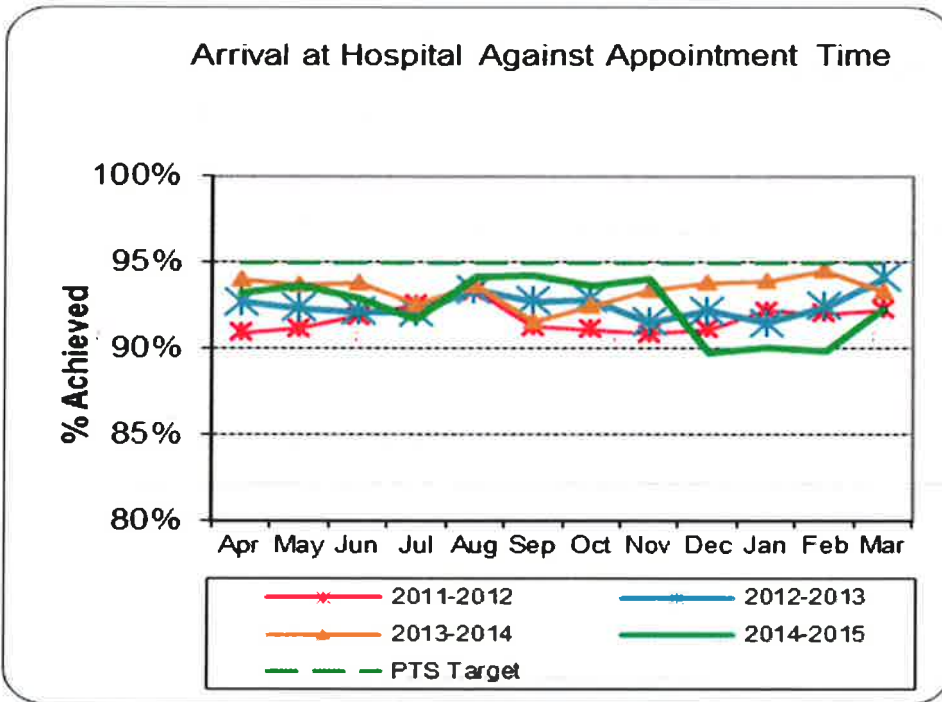
Across all our patient surveys 92% of respondents scored us as 5 or 6 (out of 6) for overall quality of service.



How have we performed against our contracted quality standards?

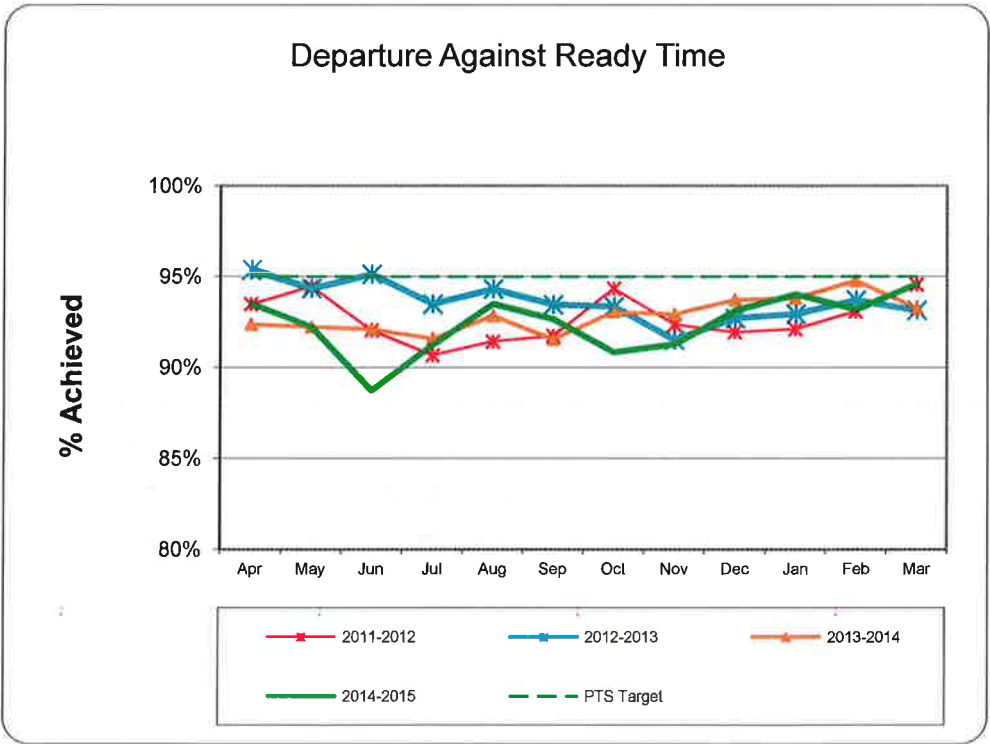
There are three Key Performance Indicators that are common across all contacts. These are as follows:

Appointment Time: This is the arrival of a patient for their appointment within a time window as specified by the commissioning Trust.

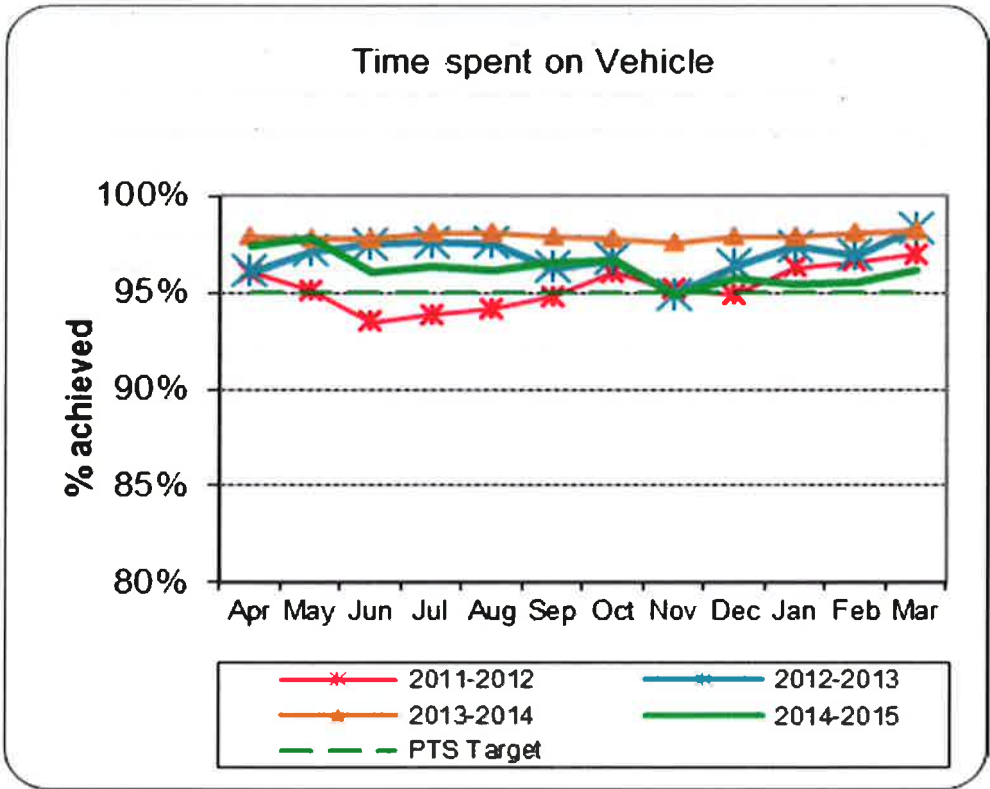


Ready Time: This is the collection of a patient after their appointment within a time window specified by the commissioning Trust





Time on Vehicle: This is the amount of time a patient spends from collection to drop off against a target specified by the commissioning Trust.



Across the year performance against these measures has been maintained above 90%.

During 2014/15 LAS has seen a decrease in the number of Trusts for which it provides PTS services. As a consequence we have managed a smaller resource pool across the Greater



London Area which has meant that these targets have presented a greater challenge to achieve.

Table: To illustrate performance against the quality indicators in the contract over time.

Quality Standard	Appointment Time	Ready Time	Time on Vehicle
2011/2012	91.72%	92.69%	95.27%
2012/2013	92.49%	93.62%	96.89%
2013/2014	93.37%	92.85%	97.92%
2014/2015	92.46%	92.41%	96.24%



Other services - South East London 111



when it's less urgent than 999

This report has been prepared to review the activity within LAS 111 South East London (SEL) for 2014/15 and has been broken down into six key areas

- Incidents, complaints and feedback
- Call Quality and monitoring
- Safeguarding
- Patient Experience
- General governance activity
- Other information



Incidents, complaints and feedback

TYPE	March 15	Feb 15	Jan 15	Dec 14	Nov 14	Oct 14	Sep 14	Aug 14	July 14	June 14	May 14	April 14
Serious incidents	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Incidents	9 (8 closed)	12 (11 closed)	21 (12 closed)	16 (9 closed)	5	1	1	4	6	6	4	7
Complaints	1	1	1	1	0	2	3	0	4	2	1	1
HCP feedback	1	0	1	3	3	0	9	3	7	3	3	0
Queries /concerns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	2	1	0
Staff incidents	2 (fall/stuck in lift 15 mins)	2 (fall/abuse)	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0
Compliments	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	9	1
Authorised confidentiality breaches	18	28	23	23	30	12	9	24	19	17	18	18

Incident details

Incidents relate to a range of issues at LAS111. The majority since November have been relating to staff errors. The errors have been wide ranging, often without any trend. Once identified issues are dealt with individually and for wider learning. One trend identified has been incorrect Out of Hours (OOH) provider resulting in referral to the wrong service. This has been dealt with through a Directory of Services update for all staff as part of spring training.

An emerging trend is language line delays to identify an appropriate language interpreter and feedback has been given to them.

Technical issues are addressed and resolved as they occur.



Feedback from Health Care Professionals

The main services /departments that we receive feedback from are the LAS crews and the GP Out of Hours (OOH) providers. The majority was related to the perceived inappropriateness of the referral and whilst several have been upheld, many have resulted due to a lack of understanding of the 111 system. Managers from LAS 111 have delivered workshops for Emergency Operations Centre staff to improve understanding and work closely with the GP OOH providers.

Feedback to Health Care Professionals

Staff are encouraged to raise issues where the actions of other healthcare providers have resulted in a delay in patient care. In the main the feedback given has been to GP OOH Providers as a result of failure to accept patient referrals due to patient location. The South East London (SEL) clinical lead has worked with SEL GP OOH providers to resolve this issue.

Staff incidents

We have had very few staff incidents reported and they have all been very minor in their nature however staff continue to report isolated incidents of extremely abusive patients requiring Police intervention.

Authorised confidentiality breaches

Authorised confidentiality breaches are logged when a patient has been referred to a service without their consent and /or knowledge. The breaches are used for patients where it is deemed not safe to leave them without further assistance or in the case of safeguarding, not safe to notify them i.e. domestic abuse where the assailant is still on the premises. The breaches are authorised at the time of the incident by a senior clinician within the call centre.

Changes in the Care act being introduced in April 2015 should result in a decrease in the number of breaches experienced.

Compliments

Compliments have been received relating to both the service and individuals undertaking patient contact duties.



Call quality and monitoring

Call Audit Data	Mar - 15	Feb- 15	Jan- 15	Dec- 14	Nov- 14	Oct- 14	Sep- 14	Aug- 14	Jul-14	Jun- 14	May- 14	Apr- 14
Calls answered at 111	27091	24631	27019	32030	26118	25949	22685	24130	24654	23492	23837	25394
% Call audits % (target 1%)	1.4%	1.6%	1.4%	1.05%	1.29%	1.34%	1.49%	1.41%	1.56%	1.37%	1.5%	1.78%
No. Call audits	371	392	370	335	338	349	328	341	385	323	358	451
No. Call Handler audits	196	206	182	177	198	195	182	189	200	150	183	238
No. Clinical Advisor audits	175	186	188	158	140	154	146	152	185	173	175	213
% Compliance (target >86%)	90%	86.9%	85.5%	86.6%	87.6%	83.4%	86.9%	85%	85.7%	83.2%	81.1%	79.4%

We have continued to exceed the required standard for 1% of call audits every month including December where demands on the service increased significantly. Each staff member has a minimum of 3 calls audited each month. Where performance issues are identified the level of audit is increased.

The compliance percentage has improved and we have met the required standard in five of the last six months. Consistency workshops are run regularly for auditors and an audit of a random selection of audits undertaken is completed monthly to ensure consistency.

Changes to the feedback process have been piloted for Clinical advisors and the revised process is about to be rolled out for Call Handlers.

End to End call audits

Monthly end to end call audits are undertaken at LAS111. The audits are attended by the clinical leads for the service (LAS -Dr Fenella Wrigley and SEL -Dr Patrick Harborow). The subjects that have been reviewed include:

- Calls involving a confidentiality breach
- GP Early intervention Pilot
- Health Information and Medicine enquiry

The end to end audits have all highlighted areas of good practice but also areas that require some improvement and we have been working consistently on them.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding referrals have remained fairly static for both adults and children. The LAS 111 service has referred 269 people in total to Social Services which equates to circa 0.12%. We have received three feedback reports from Social Services in total.

Patient Experience

Patient satisfaction survey

The 111 patient surveys are sent each month to circa 150 patients. These did not start to be sent out until April 2014. 92.5% of those who responded reported being very or fairly satisfied with the 111 service. Patient concern /complaint level has remained low.

Language line

Language line use has improved across the year and we are able to report accurately by language each month. Steps taken to focus staff mean we are now utilizing this service on average 30 times each month.

Training

All staff have undertaken two periods of mandatory training relating to the changes to Pathways. This has all been achieved within the required timescales. Spring training in 2015 has focused on mandatory and statutory requirements and a probing workshop for all advisors.

Pilots and Innovation

LAS 111 has been actively involved in a number of pilots throughout the year including introduction of Summary Care Records, Clinical Warm Transfer & Clinical Call back Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Pilot, NHS111 Learning & Development Community Referral Survey, GP Early intervention pilot, Enhanced clinical assessment of Green 999 and ED disposition

The enhanced clinical assessment of Green ambulance outcomes is resulting in circa 80% of calls reaching a Green ambulance outcome at the Call Handler stage being passed to a clinician for further Assessment and circa 70% of these achieving an alternative disposition of which 3% will be upgraded to a red response. This pilot commenced in early December and due to its success SEL Commissioners have requested it continues beyond the initial winter initiative period which finished immediately after the Easter period.

Other Information

Key clinical call information

We have performed strongly and consistently across the Clinical Indicators throughout the year.

- Highest percentage of calls transferred to a clinician in London and exceeding the national average
- 69% of calls queued for clinical call back are achieved in less than 10 minutes
- A reduction to 6.9% of ambulance dispositions which is regularly the lowest referral rate nationally.



Feedback

Comments from our partners and stakeholders

We are obligated to give stakeholders the opportunity to comment on our Quality Account and to then publish their comments in full. This year we invited the following organisations/groups to respond.

- Southwark Healthwatch
- Hillingdon Oversight & Scrutiny Committee
- The London Ambulance Service Patients" Forum
- The London Ambulance Service Commissioners

We would like to thank those organisations/groups for taking the time to read and respond. Their comments are published in this section.

Southwark Healthwatch Feedback

Unfortunately the London Ambulance Service were advised by Southwark Healthwatch that they were unable able to submit a response to the LAS quality account, due to resources/capacity, meeting schedules and the associated timeframes.



THE LONDON AMBULANCE SERVICE NHS TRUST

Consultation on the Trust's Quality Account - 2014/2015

Response on behalf of the External Services Scrutiny Committee at the London Borough of Hillingdon

The External Services Scrutiny Committee welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Trust's 2014/2015 Quality Account report and acknowledges the Trust's commitment to attend its meetings when requested. The Committee recognises that, over the last year, the Trust has experienced pressures which have resulted in a lower attendance at its meetings. As such, it is encouraging to see that the Trust has already recruited and trained over 260 new members of frontline staff and has plans in place to increase this number to 850 by the end of 2015/2016. However, the Trust needs to ensure that the retention measures that it has planned are sufficient enough to entice staff to stay.

The Committee has no doubt that the service provided by the Trust is excellent and that it should be congratulated on receiving the MPDS Centre of Excellence award and the Cabinet Offices' Customer Services Excellence Accreditation. However, concern has been expressed that the Trust is under growing pressure, primarily resulting from an increasing demand, and that this puts additional pressure on existing staff and therefore impacts on staff turnover. It is recognised that action is already being undertaken to increase capacity and decrease demand and the Committee looks forward to receiving an update on the effectiveness of these initiatives and the value for money that they have provided.

The report notes that there had been "low levels of staff satisfaction evidenced in our disappointing staff survey results" and mention is made of the action taken to strengthen staff engagement and communication. However, information in relation to the most common issues raised by staff and the monitoring procedures that have been put in place to address any areas of concern have not been mentioned.

The Trust's Quality Account report provides a range of information about the service that it provides across the whole of London but there are areas which would benefit from the inclusion of more detail. Although it is understood that the format and content of the Quality Report is largely predetermined, consideration could be given to using less technical language to make the report more accessible to lay people. In terms of the information provided within the report, it would be useful to include the % targets that had been set for the period (e.g., Category A calls). In addition, Members believe that the report could be strengthened by the use of better time serialised data going back five years to identify trends and show a course of direction.



Over the last year, the volume of complaints has risen by 24%. Although the Committee has no reason to think that the Trust is not dealing with these complaints effectively, Members would like further assurances about the timeliness of the action taken by LAS to address the source of the complaints and the procedures put in place to ensure that lessons are learnt throughout the organisation from these complaints.

Historically, the Trust has sent a single responder as well as an ambulance crew to many calls in a bid to achieve its response time targets. It is recognised that the LAS has made changes to improve the efficiency of the service and, to this end, has reduced the multiple attendance ratio (MAR) from 1.41 to 1.30. The Committee looks forward to receiving an update on the impact that these measures have had on capacity and waiting times and any associated impact on the achievement of response time targets.

It is encouraging to note that mental health continues to be an area of focus for the LAS over the next year with the pan-London use of the mental health risk assessment tool, a new action plan, focus groups and a range of training being provided for staff (including those in the Emergency Operations Centre). Given that there have been issues in relation to LAS attendance regarding section 136 incidents involving the police (highlighted in the Committee's recent review of Policing and Mental Health), the Committee looks forward to receiving an update on the dedicated desk that had been set up to manage calls and provide appropriate triage to patients and support to police colleagues.

Overall, the Committee welcomes the initiatives that the Trust is putting in place to address areas in need of improvement and is pleased with the excellent service that it continues to provide in the face of rapidly growing demand and limited resources. However, there are a number of areas where further improvements still need to be made and we look forward to receiving updates on progress and the work undertaken to support the priorities outlined in the report over the course of 2015/16.



PATIENTS' FORUM

FOR THE LONDON AMBULANCE SERVICE

FORMAL STATEMENT FOR THE LONDON AMBULANCE SERVICE QUALITY ACCOUNT

JUNE 28th 2015

WWW.PATIENTSFORUMLAS.NET

Patients' Forum Ambulance Services (London). Registered in England. Company Limited by Guarantee.
Company Number: 6013086.

Registered office: 6 Garden Court, Holden Road, Woodside Park, LONDON, N12 7DG

Our formal statement for the 2015 Quality Account:

(i) WAITING FOR CLINICAL CARE FROM THE LAS

We are aware of the enormous amount of work the LAS is doing to recruit staff, but we remain concerned about the very long waits, sometimes of several hours, still experienced by some patients who are categorised as requiring a Cat C response. This includes patients who have had falls and people suffering from dementia.

The Forum recommends that the LAS greatly enhances its links and formal agreements with local health and social care services, so that whenever possible immediate support is provided locally to ensure the safety of the patient until the LAS resource arrives. The use of a new category of Community Responders may also be considered as an interim measure to secure the safety of patients waiting for a clinical response from the LAS.

ii) DEMENTIA CARE

We welcome the increasing focus on the care of patients with dementia, which includes the training of staff and linking up with organisations that specialise in dementia care.

We recommend that training in dementia care becomes more comprehensive e.g. with regard to pain control. We would also like to recommend that the film Barbara's Story, created to raise awareness of dementia among all 13,200 staff at Guy's and St Thomas', is seen by all LAS staff to gain a better understanding of the subtle signs and symptoms that are common in people suffering from dementia.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtA2sMAjU_Y

iii) PATIENTS WHO FALL

Patients who fall often wait long periods for care. It is essential when clinicians assess them to follow the NICE Guidelines - CG161 in relation to:

- Cognitive impairment
- Continence problems
- Falls history, including causes and consequences (such as injury and fear of falling)
- Footwear that is unsuitable or missing
- Health problems that may increase their risk of falling
- Medication
- Postural instability, mobility problems and/or balance problems



- Syncope syndrome (fainting which can be caused by dehydration, Medications, diabetes, anaemia, heart conditions)
- Visual impairment

We recommend that in addition to providing assurance that all staff are fully aware of these guidelines when providing care, that the LAS ensure that direct referrals can be made to either falls teams or 'single point of access' teams in every London borough. (Currently this service is available in Wandsworth, Kingston and Richmond, Merton and Sutton, Enfield and Lambeth).

iv) SAFEGUARDING

Considerable progress has been made in the development of safeguarding procedures and training, and there has recently been an excellent Safeguarding Mental Health conference. However, there are still some weaknesses in the system.

We recommend that the LAS prioritises improving the supervision of staff involved in safeguarding, developing a training database and developing more effective methods to communicate safeguarding referrals and related information to the large number of partners in London (ref: Butler-Sloss Report).

v) FAST TEST FOR STROKE

Despite very significant advances in the identification and treatment of patients who have had a stroke, a recent case highlighted the need for more effective training for staff in identifying these patients and rapidly transporting them to hospital.

We recommend refresher training takes place to ensure that the use of the FAST test is fully understood by all front line clinicians.

vi) AMBULANCE QUEUING

The queuing of ambulances outside A&E department is completely unacceptable, because it results in some of the sickest people in London waiting considerable periods of time for A&E care. It also prevents frontline clinicians from treating seriously ill people across London.

We recommend that the Board of the LAS works jointly with the Greater London Authority and NHS England to urgently find a solution to this problem.



vii) CARE OF BARIATRIC PATIENTS

The care and transportation of bariatric patients in emergency situations from their home to hospital can be complex and hazardous for the patient and clinical staff. Appropriate procedures and equipment must always be available.

We recommend that the LAS develops clear operational plans to respond appropriately to the growing bariatric population in London. These plans should include effective training of all front line staff in assessment of patients, and the use of specialist manual handling and clinical equipment during the care and treatment of bariatric patients. Adequate numbers of vehicles need to be available to accommodate bariatric patients in safety and comfort and with dignity.

viii) RESUSE OF BLANKETS

Despite the Chief Medical Officer confirming to the Forum in 2011 that re-use of blankets for patients is always unacceptable and poses a cross-infection risk, our intelligence from front line staff is that multiple blanket use continues

We recommend that the LAS ensure that multiple blanket use stops immediately.

ix) END OF LIFE CARE

The use of the Co-ordinate my Care system and Advance Care Plans in the LAS is still under developed for patients requiring 'end of life' emergency care. Evidence of compliance with Advance Care Plans is not available, but should be produced by the LAS and other health bodies.

We recommend that continuous training and updating of frontline LAS staff in end of life care throughout 2015-6 and beyond is essential and that regular assessment takes place to ensure appropriate and adequate responses to the CMC and ACPs.

x) PATIENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT BY THE LAS

Outreach work by the LAS, across London, is highly successful, very extensive and engages LAS staff as volunteers, to meet wide and diverse groups and communities across London, but evidence of service improvement through community engagement is lacking.

We recommend that the LAS should demonstrate how engagement with communities influences and enhances services provided by the LAS and impacts on recruitment to the LAS

xi) STAFF SHIFT PATTERNS SHOULD BE FULLY EVALUATED



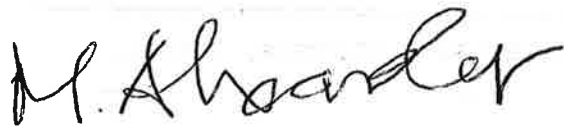
There is considerable national and international research on the deleterious effects of shift work on both short and long term physical and mental health. Some staff members are not suited to shift work and able to remain healthy and well, but are excellent front line clinicians. The LAS needs to reconsider the health and safety needs of patients and staff.

WE RECOMMEND that the impact of long shifts on front line staff is fully evaluated by the LAS, especially in relation to the impact of 12 hour shifts, without adequate meal breaks and rest on: clinical care; the health of staff; training and complaints against staff, e.g. in relation to attitude and behaviour. Staff should be interviewed about the effects of shift work on their health and clinical practice during annual appraisals, and be involved in development of improved alternatives.

xii) **SERIOUS INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS** are one of the most important measures to enable the clinical staff to learn for lapses in effective care, and to provide assurances to the public that care has improved through root cause analysis and reflective practice.

We recommend that outcomes from SI investigations and evidence of consequent improvements in safety are placed in the public arena for patients and the wider community to read.

Malcolm Alexander



On behalf of the Patients' Forum



London Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust Quality Account 2014-5

Pan-London Clinical Commissioning Groups have welcomed the opportunity to comment on the London Ambulance Service (LAS) Quality Account for 2014-15. Commissioners would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the strength and breadth of work already undertaken and planned for 2015-16 to provide the highest possible standards of care to the people of London.

The key priorities set out in the account are aligned with CCG strategic intentions and focus on appropriate areas of delivery such as frequent callers and mental health.

Significant achievement has been made to date to address the issues associated with staff recruitment and retention and it is reassuring to note that efforts across the forthcoming year will be prioritised on local recruitment, training and development.

LAS Performance against national standards in 2014/15 was significantly challenged across the year and considerable work continues to be required to meet response times. In order to address the root cause of this under performance, Brent CCG commissioned a diagnostic work which resulted in a Business Case that set out the requirements necessary to meet both national and local thresholds, including any additional investment required for delivery.

The 32 London CCGs have agreed additional funding with a sliding scale payment agreement in place against key LAS deliverables for 2015-16, which will be managed against a comprehensive Performance Management Framework.

Commissioners welcome the developments made in 2014-15 to implement the Clinical Hub and welcome the 2015-16 CQUINs identified to further strengthen this service, and improve the use of Alternative Care Pathways, to reduce unnecessary ED conveyance.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the recent reorganisation of senior operations staff to enable strengthened support across local System Resilience Groups and look forward to continuing to build on these relationships and working with the LAS over the coming year in this regard.

Dr Andrew Steeden

Chair, LAS Clinical Quality Review Group (CQRG)



GLOSSARY

ABD	Acute Behavioural Disturbance
ACP	Appropriate Care Pathway
AED	Automatic External Defibrillators
AQI	Ambulance Quality Indicator
BAF	Board Assurance Framework
CARU	Clinical Audit and Research Unit
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CMC	Co-ordinate My Care
CPI	Core Performance Indicator
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CQRG	Clinical Quality Review Group
CQUIN	Commissioning for Quality and Innovation Framework
CSR	Core Skills Refresher
EAC	Emergency Ambulance Crew
ECG	Electrocardiography
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
FAST	Face Arm Speech Test
FreCaNN	Frequent Caller National Network
IO	Intraosseous
JRU	Joint Response Unit
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LAS	London Ambulance Service
LETB	Local Education Training Boards
MAR	Multiple Attendance Ratio
MH	Mental Health
MPDS	Medical Priority Dispatch System



MPS	Metropolitan Police
OOH	Out of Hours
PALS	Patient Advice and Liaison Service
PCAT	Patient Centred Action Team
PPI	Patient and Public Involvement
PTS	Patient Transport Service
ROSC	Return of Spontaneous Circulation
SEL	South East London
SI	Serious Incident
STEMI	ST Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction
SVT	Supraventricular Tachycardia
TDA	Trust Development Authority
TEAC	Trainee Emergency Ambulance Crew
WTE	Whole Time Equivalent



Statement of Directors responsibilities

The directors are required under the Health Act 2009 and the National Health Service (Quality Accounts) Regulations to prepare Quality Accounts for each financial year.

Monitor has issued guidance to NHS foundation trust boards on the form and content of annual quality accounts (which incorporates the above legal requirements) and the arrangements that NHS foundation trust boards should put in place to support the data quality for the preparation of the quality account. The London Ambulance Service, whilst not a Foundation Trust has prepared the annual quality account in line with this guidance ensuring directors have taken steps to satisfy themselves that:

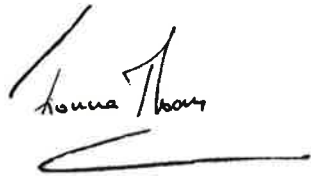
- the content of the Quality Account meets the requirements set out in the NHS Foundation Trust Annual Reporting Manual 2014/15 and supporting guidance
- the content of the Quality Account is not inconsistent with internal and external sources of information including:
 - board minutes and papers for the period April 2014 to March 2015
 - papers relating to quality reported to the board over the period April 2014 – March 2015
 - feedback from commissioners dated 08/06/15
 - feedback from Southwark Healthwatch organisations dated 12/06/2015
 - feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 02/06/2015
 - the trust's complaints report published under regulation 18 of the Local Authority Social Services and NHS Complaints Regulations 2009, dated..
 - the 2014 national staff survey
 - the Head of Internal Audit's annual opinion over the trust's control environment dated June 2015
- The quality report presents a balanced picture of the NHS trust's performance over the period covered
- The performance information reported in the quality report is reliable and accurate
- There are proper internal controls over the collection and reporting of the measures of performance included in the quality report, and these controls are subject to review to confirm that they are working effectively in practice
- The data underpinning the measures of performance reported in the quality report is robust and reliable, conforms to specified data quality standards and prescribed definitions, is subject to appropriate scrutiny and review and



The Directors confirm to the best of their knowledge and belief they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the quality report.



By order of the BoardChairmanDate



.....Chief ExecutiveDate

