

THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

CLINICAL ASSURANCE TOOLKIT – SCORECARD

1. INTRODUCTION

Governors have been kept informed of the development of the Clinical Assurance Toolkit (CAT). The revised questions were released in October 2011 as planned and the Board reports from November 2011 onward will reflect the changes made.

2. CAT REPORT SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 2011

The Trust-wide scorecard has seen incremental improvements across most participating clinical areas of the Trust. The scorecard identifies significant numbers of areas that are “amber” or “red” but some of these are still due to anomalies in the data. Following the changes in October, it is expected that these anomalies will have been rectified in the next set of reports.

The updated CAT survey was released on 17th October 2011 after successful testing. Some questions were changed in response to user feedback and several new questions were added in response to CQUIN leads for areas such as infection prevention and control, smoking documentation and Modified Early Warning Scores (MEWS). The rollout of the changes in October re-opens the window for user feedback on new and existing questions. Any suggestions for changes to the CAT must be made by 31st January 2012. Following two months of testing, the next survey will be released in April 2012.

3. CAT STRATEGY AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Senior Nursing Team is finalising the CAT Strategy document which will outline the intended development of the toolkit over the next two years and beyond. The document will give an overview of current processes and the development up to this point before moving on to discuss the future.

The main points from the document are: the development of the Charter Mark to showcase high performing clinical areas; the implementation of CAT in Community Health, taking into account the very different healthcare setting and set of assurance standards; and the development of more detailed reporting to highlight areas for improvement across the Trust. The introduction of patient, and staff experience measures will also be incorporated into the Tool.

4. RECOMMENDATION

To receive the briefing and comment on the Tool as appropriate.

Helen Lamont
Nursing & Patient Services Director
10th November 2011