

Item: 11.2

REPORT CLASSIFICATION	✓	CATEGORY OF PAPER	✓
Official	✓	Proposes specific action	
Official: Sensitive Commercial		Provides assurance	✓
Official: Sensitive Personal		For information only	

BOARD
25 NOVEMBER 2025

Report Title:	Quality and Safety Committee Highlight Report and Confirmed Minutes
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Purpose of report

To provide the Board with a summary of the key points from the meeting of the Quality and Safety Committee held on 13 November 2025 and the confirmed minutes from 11 September 2025.

Key points

The Committee considered several issues and supporting papers at its meeting held on 13 November 2025 and the key points are summarised below.

- **Healthier and Fairer Programme** – The Committee received a report and presentation which provided assurance that the programme supported delivery of high-quality, safe and effective interventions. The programme is a strategic transformation programme delivering on the Prevention and Healthcare Inequalities agenda and outlined key areas on programme structure; prevention workstreams, including alcohol and healthy weight and healthcare inequalities workstreams, including digital inclusion and health literacy.
- **Board Assurance Framework (BAF) and Risk Management Report – Quarter 2 2025/26** – The report provided a refreshed BAF for Quarter 2 and an updated corporate risk register for review. Additionally, the report highlighted specific risk movements, new corporate risks and noted any closed risks.
- **Complaints Report – Quarters 1 and 2, 2025/26** – The Committee received the report which provided an overview of the concerns, issues and complaints received in Quarters 1 and 2, 2025/25. The report also highlighted the work undertaken to seek improvements in the ways of working and to ensure alignment of the complaints processes into one streamlined function and enable a more robust integrated reporting structure.
- **Patient Story – Learning from People's experience in All Age Continuing Care** – The Committee received a presentation which used patient and staff stories to highlight key learning including how sharing experiences can be hard and how it could be made easier; treating shared experiences as a core indicator of quality and embedding feedback into practice.
- **NENC ICB Involvement and Engagement Update** – The update provided the Committee with a summary of the ICB's involvement and engagement activity across the NENC area and included an overview of the involvement work that the NENC Healthwatch Network is carrying out on the ICB's behalf, demonstrating the partnership approach and breadth of involvement.
- **North and South Area Quality Reports** - The report provided the Committee with oversight of key quality themes, risks and exceptions outlined in the ICB Area Quality reports for the North and

South Areas. Key points included development of a data quality improvement plan to address coding issues related to Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI) data; update on Never Events across NENC; refinement of the ICB's Equality and Quality Impact Assessments (EQIAs) and inclusion of the new National Quality Board guidance into the process.

- **National Quality Board (NQB) - Definition of Quality** – The report provided an overview of a proposal and discussions taking place in order to obtain a national definition of quality. There is no one definition of quality used in NHS frameworks. The current proposal is to extend the original NQB definition beyond the statutory definition of safe, effective, experience to include equity, timely, efficiency / sustainability and well led elements.
- **Martha's Rule Update** – The Committee received the update which provided assurance that Martha's Rule continues to be implemented across the NENC ICS. Phase 2 of Martha's Rule commenced in April 2025 and each hospital site in England has or will receive funding to support wider piloting of the three components of Martha's Rule in more clinical areas. All North East and North Cumbria Trusts involved in Phase 1, have progressed to Phase 2 and all remaining NENC acute FTs are implementing Martha's Rule in at least one site this year.
- **Investigating Under Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF) – sharing Health Services Safety Investigations Body (HSSIB) learning** – The paper provided a summary of the HSSIB's recent report based on their findings from interviews and observations in applying the PSIRF.
- **NENC ICB Annual Report - Learning from Lives and Deaths of People with Learning Disability and Autistic People (LeDeR)** - The LeDeR Annual Report provided assurance about delivery of LeDeR including numbers of reviews, causes of death and learning/improvement action undertaken across North East and North Cumbria. The report highlighted key areas including the number of reviews of deaths of people with learning disability and autistic people and the causes.
- **NENC ICB Overview Assurance Report of Safeguarding Children, Adults and Cared for Children** – The Committee received the report which highlighted the emerging risks and concerns from both providers, the ICS system and ICB local delivery teams, and identified areas of good practice. Additionally, the report highlighted areas of risk and the mitigations to minimise these risks.

Risks and issues

The Committee will continue to receive and review the corporate risks aligned to the quality and safety portfolio to provide assurance to the Board that the quality and safety risks contained within the corporate risk register reflect the current environment.

Assurances and supporting documentation

The Committee received several items for assurance including

- Clinical Effectiveness and Governance Subcommittee Highlight Report
- Integrated Delivery Report – October 2025
- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAI) Subcommittee Minutes
- North and South Area Quality and Safety Subcommittee Minutes
- ICB SEND Assurance Subcommittee Minutes
- System Quality Group Minutes
- NENC ICB Safeguarding Health Executive Minutes

Recommendation/action required

The Board is asked to;

- Note the key highlights from the meeting held on 13 November 2025
- Receive the confirmed minutes from 11 September meeting (appendix 1) for information and assurance

Acronyms and abbreviations explained

As described in the report.						
Sponsor/approving executive director	Professor Sir Pali Hungin, Chair of Quality and Safety Committee and Independent Non Executive Member Dr Hilary Lloyd, Chief Nurse and AHP Officer					
Date approved by executive director	19 November 2025					
Report author	Jane Smailes, Corporate Governance Officer					
Link to ICP strategy priorities (please tick all that apply)						
Longer and Healthier Lives						✓
Fairer Outcomes for All						✓
Better Health and Care Services						✓
Giving Children and Young People the Best Start in Life						✓
Relevant legal/statutory issues						
Note any relevant Acts, regulations, national guidelines etc						
Any potential/actual conflicts of interest associated with the paper? (please tick)	Yes		No	✓	N/A	
Equality analysis completed (please tick)	Yes		No		N/A	✓
If there is an expected impact on patient outcomes and/or experience, has a quality impact assessment been undertaken? (please tick)	Yes		No		N/A	✓
Key considerations						
Financial implications and considerations	N/A					
Contracting and Procurement	N/A					
Local Delivery Team	N/A					
Digital implications	N/A					
Clinical involvement	Clinical representation within the Committee					
Health inequalities	N/A					
Patient and public involvement	The Committee receives regular updates concerning patient and public engagement					
Partner and/or other stakeholder engagement	N/A					
Other resources	N/A					