

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

BOARD

27 JANUARY 2026

Report Title:

**Quality and Safety Committee
Highlight Report and Confirmed Minutes**

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 15 January 2026 and the confirmed minutes from 13 November 2025.

Key points

The Committee considered several issues and supporting papers at its meeting held on 15 January 2026 and the key points are summarised below:

Board Assurance Framework (BAF) and Risk Management Report – Quarter 3, 2025/26 – The report provided a refreshed BAF for Quarter 3 and an updated corporate risk register for review. Additionally, the report highlighted specific risk movements, new corporate risks and noted any closed risks.

Patient Story – Lived Example – Community Wound Care in North Tyneside – The Committee received a written example, provided with patient consent, of a lived experience of the services commissioned by the ICB. The patient story continued the ICB's efforts to hear directly from patients' lived experience.

NENC ICB Involvement and Engagement Update – A summary update was provided to the Committee regarding the ICB's involvement and engagement activity across the North and East and North Cumbria. The report set out how the ICB is continuing to involve people in conversations around health services at community, place, area, and ICB-wide levels. The report provided a high-level summary and oversight of some of the key activities currently taking place across the NENC region including work with partners.

Closing Referral Black Holes (Healthwatch England) - The Healthwatch England report provided an update to previous Healthwatch England research undertaken in 2023, to understand if the patient experience of referrals had improved. The report highlighted key findings and the impact and risks following introduction of various Government reforms and initiatives.

Area Quality and Safety Reports – The report provided a synopsis of key risks or concerns that had been presented to the North and South Area Quality and Safety subcommittees, alerted members to any key concerns, advised on what the underlying issues are and assured members of the necessary actions being taken to improve and address these concerns. Key areas noted were mortality, never events, regulation 28 prevention of future death reports, equality and quality impact assessments and infection prevention and control.

Local Maternity and Neonatal Systems (LMNS) Quality and Safety Report – The Committee received the LMNS Perinatal Quality and Safety work programme from April 2025 to 31 December 2025. The report highlighted national and regional initiatives, patient safety events, maternal and perinatal mortality,

listening to service users, service provision and support, maternal mental health and equity, and compliance and assurance.

Regulation 28 Prevention of Future Death Reports issued across North East and North Cumbria 2025/26 Year to Date (April to November 2025) – The paper provided the Committee with an overview of Regulation 28 Prevention of Future Deaths (PFDs) reports issued to NHS organisations and services commissioned by the ICB in 2025/26 year to date, highlighting key themes, risks and system learning.

Vaccination Rates and Steps Taken to Improve Them – The Committee received a presentation regarding the Seasonal Flu Vaccination Programme highlights of which included influenza hospital admission rates, pattern of activity and uptake, uptake for front line healthcare workers and planning for forthcoming seasons.

Infection Prevention Control (IPC) and Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) – The Committee received the updates, noting the rising infection rates across several key pathogens, strengthened governance arrangements between IPC and AMR and that key antimicrobial stewardship gaps are actively mitigated through targeted system-wide controls during Winter 2025/26.

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 providers, the ICS system and ICB local delivery teams. The report also 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:

- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAI) Subcommittee Minutes – 1 October 2025
- North Area Quality and Safety Subcommittee Minutes – 21 October 2025
- South Area Quality and Safety Subcommittee Minutes – 21 October 2025
- System Quality Group Minutes – 16 October 2025
- Integrated Delivery Report – December 2025

Recommendation/action required

The Board is asked to;

- Note the key highlights from the meeting held on 15 January 2026.
- Receive the confirmed minutes from 13 November 2025 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	19/01/2026
Report author	Jane Smailes, Corporate Governance Officer

Link to ICP strategy priorities

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?	Yes		No	✓	N/A	
Equality analysis completed	Yes		No		N/A	✓
If there is an expected impact on patient outcomes and/or experience, has a quality impact assessment been undertaken?	Yes		No		N/A	✓
Essential 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					