

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.2 The Stockport Locality Quality Group (SLQG) meets monthly to oversee the quality, safety, and performance of health and care services for the Stockport population. This includes input from local providers and the wider Integrated Care Board (ICB), including out-of-area services.

1.3 The SLQG reviews system-wide quality, safety, and performance data, identifies risks, holds stakeholders accountable, and celebrates good practice. Information from Stockport and external providers is analysed to agree on actions. This briefing outlines key work priorities and highlights any significant challenges for the Board's attention.

2.0 Rapid Quality Reviews

2.1 Paediatric Audiology Services

The Rapid Quality Review process continues, with a retrospective five-year cohort review starting on 1st November 2024, delayed slightly due to recruitment challenges. Mutual aid for any required retesting will be provided by Manchester Foundation Trust (MFT), with formal agreements in place. Progress updates will be provided to the board bi-monthly.

2.3 Stockport Maternity Services

Following the September Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection, Stockport NHS Foundation Trust's maternity services were rated as 'requires improvement.' Key issues identified included discharge delays, incomplete training, gaps in risk assessments, and medicine management. However, staff commitment and efforts to reduce health inequalities were recognized.

A Rapid Quality Review of the services commenced on 23 September 2024, focusing on progress made. NHS England chaired the meeting, and significant assurance was provided, leading to the decision to step down the rapid review process and continue with the established action plan. Updates will be provided following the planned Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST) assurance visit in January 2025.

3.0 Primary Care Quality Visits & Complaints

3.1 Quality Visits

Quality visits will be scheduled over an extended 18-month period due to operational pressures. These visits focus on key lines of enquiry (KLOEs), such as Locally Commissioned Service (LCS) performance, access, and long-term condition management.

To date, 15 quality visits have been completed, with additional visits planned. Emerging themes include:

- Best Practice Evidence
- Referrals
- IT/Systems Challenges
- Workforce Challenges
- Access

- Prevention
- Primary/Secondary Interface

3.4 Complaints – Quarter 1 (Q1) 2024

Themes from formal complaints during Q1 2024 include:

- Clinical Care
- Communication
- Access to Services
- Medical Records
- Prescriptions

Complaints data is triangulated with quality visit themes and anecdotal information, with practices required to provide assurance where needed.

4.0 Hilltop Hall Nursing Home

Hilltop Hall Nursing Home is rated 'inadequate' by the CQC and is under the Multi-Agency Concern (MAC) process, supported by the Stockport Escalation and Accountability Framework. Due to limited progress, the home has been escalated to Provider of Concern (POC) status. Weekly assurance meetings are ongoing to monitor improvements. A CQC re-inspection is currently underway, with the locality awaiting the outcome.

5.0 Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAIs)

5.1 HCIA stands for Healthcare Associated Infection, and is a term used to describe infections that develop in a healthcare setting such as a hospital. HCIA's can be caused by several factors, including medical or surgical procedures, contact with a healthcare setting, or micro-organisms already present on the patient's body. They can pose a serious risk to patients, staff, and visitors, and can incur significant costs for the NHS.

5.2 Stockport has seen an increase in the number of HCIA's identified over the past 18 months. Significant work has been ongoing across the locality in attempt to reduce cases with a key focus being on reducing Urinary tract infections and HCAI outbreaks in Care homes.

5.3 The Public Health Team (PHT) have done a large piece of work around Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) bacteraemia's looking at the data for the last 12 months and the year to date looking at various identifiers including:

- GP code
- Areas of deprivation or affluence
- Localities
- Age
- Gender



- Admitted from home or nursing home?
- Did person have catheter?

5.4 The exercise was undertaken to identify any common denominators that might account for the numbers, specifically community acquired UTI's. To date no specific issues have been found regarding these identifiers and they were found to be spread evenly across the GP's, localities and other denominators. Whilst this is encouraging as it does not highlight any specific areas of poor prescribing practice, it does also mean that the team cannot target anything or anyone to determine whether the numbers could be reduced.

5.5 When community cases of ESBL's (extended spectrum beta-lactamase) Urinary tract Infections/ bacteraemia's are identified the team send the same information but include information on UTI's prevention and treatment. (ESBL – which is an enzyme found in some strains of bacteria that cannot be killed by many of the antibiotics used to treat infections) so it does determine which antibiotics can and cannot be used to treat the infection. The Team does the same for Clostridium difficile and CPE (Carbapenamase Producing Enterobacteriaceae) – both are infections in the gut that are also resistant to many antibiotics and consequently difficult to treat.

5.6 Infectious disease management is and continues to be a major function of the Health Protection team within Stockport Council. The Team has an extensive history of outbreak management within care homes and other settings, with a range of infectious diseases from diarrhoea and vomiting to scabies, to outbreaks of respiratory infections such as influenza and COVID. When an outbreak in a care home is identified/reported, the Team provide daily support and advice until they are 48 hours clear (D&V) or have been treated and recovered (COVID/Flu) etc. The Team is also the only borough in the country who offer Point of Care (POC) testing for flu and COVID so they are able to send in staff who will have results in minutes rather than waiting hours or days for lab results. The Team has the machines and testing medium to perform rapid testing in care homes as soon as more than 2 cases have been reported, leading to lower risk of spread. This also means that outbreaks can be declared over quicker enabling the homes to reopen sooner.

6.0 Individual Care Panel

6.1 The Individual Care Panel (ICP) meets monthly to review requests for placements outside of the scheme of delegation for individuals with a Mental Health need or Learning Disability, and children or adults with Continuing Care needs. The Panel review applications for individual packages of care for patients with learning disabilities, complex care needs, or mental health care provision needs whose needs cannot be met within the available routinely commissioned health services. The panel also review applications for specialised equipment not routinely available through other commissioning streams.

6.2 Requests are also received where patients have an exceptional health care need to a current commissioned policy or pathway, but the request does not fall under the terms of reference of the Greater Manchester Individual Funding Panel.



6.3 Other applications are considered where appropriate and reasonable as agreed by the Chair.

6.4 Activity in current financial year

In the period 1 April 2024 to date the panel have considered 45 applications; of these 29 were approved, 7 were deferred pending provision of further information and 1 was declined following identification of a commissioned service. In addition, 8 cases were considered at the October panel the outcomes for which are awaited.

The 29 approved applications were made up as follows: -

Specialist placements (Section 117)	£490,700
Slow Stream Neuro rehab	£316,374
Equipment	£ 61,380
Specialised Seating	£ 19,803
Therapies and Treatments	£ 9,340
Total	<u>£897,597</u>

In addition, deferred cases for this period total £254,098

6.5 October 2024 Cases

The panel sat on 16 October 2024, and we await the outcome of 8 applications with a total value of **£548,638**. They include 3 specialist placement applications and 3 applications for AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication).