

Item: 11.2

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

BOARD	
29 JULY 2026	
Committee Escalation and Assurance Report	
Committee Name:	Quality and Safety Committee
Committee Chair:	Sir Pali Hungin, Independent Non-Executive Member
Dates of Committee Meeting/s:	9 July 2026
Alert: Matters that need the Board's attention or action e.g. area of non-compliant, safety issue, new risks identified.	
NONE	
Advise: Matters to inform the Board of - developments, opportunities or areas subject to ongoing monitoring.	
Citizen's Jury – Pain Management The Committee received the presentation which highlighted the approach and value of a Citizen's Jury in exploring persistent pain management to reduce reliance on medical interventions and improvement for patient outcomes. The presentation included why persistent pain needed a new approach, what is a citizen's jury and why to use it, partnership delivery and governance, methodology overview, jury selection and learning, deliberation and recommendation development and overview of the citizen generated recommendations. The Committee discussed what other areas may be suitable for this approach. Board Assurance Framework and Risk Management Report – Quarter 1, 202/27 The Committee received and discussed the Quarter 1 BAF and Risk Management report and noted that following the change to the ICB's operating model the BAF would need to be reviewed to ensure it continued to align to the 5 year plan. Draft Annual Cycle of Business The draft Annual Cycle of Business, which proposed a series of regular reports, updates and highlight reports and minutes from aligned groups, for 2026/27 was approved by the Committee. Policy for Approval – ICBP060 Personal Health Budgets The Committee received a revised version of the ICBP060 Personal Health Budgets policy which included additional safeguards as previously requested by the Committee. The policy was approved by the Quality and Safety Committee. Management of Complaints within All Age Continuing Care The Committee discussed the report which highlighted the actions being undertaken to strengthen complaints management processes within All Age Continuing Care, including enhanced oversight and early investigation, and continued focus on cultural and behavioural improvement across All Age Continuing Care.	

Quality and Safety Report

The Committee received the Quality and Safety Report which provided an oversight of key themes and highlighted three specific areas of concern; the Care Quality Commission (CQC) report regarding County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust, Never Events, and Regulation 28 – prevention of future deaths reports.

Update on the use of Temporary Escalation Spaces (corridor care)

The report provided the Committee with an update on the use, governance and oversight of temporary escalation spaces (TES) in acute trusts across North East and North Cumbria ICB. This followed the HSSIB Investigation Report – Patient Care in Temporary Environments report received in March 2026. The Committee was advised that the NHS Corridor Care Improvement Guide had been published in March 2026 setting out a framework to minimise and ultimately eliminate corridor care through the adoption of GIRFT clinical operational standards, system wide collaboration and strong leadership.

NENC ICB Infection Prevention Control Update Q1 26/27

The Committee was provided with an updated position relating to Infection Prevention and Control within Hospital Trusts across the North East and North Cumbria region, this included the current position on healthcare-associated infection (HCAI) trends across NHS acute trusts and the NENC ICB for the most recent reporting quarter and an update on the system-wide IPC improvement programme, including emerging findings and a risk assessment.

Assure: Areas of assurance that the Committee has received

NENC ICB's Involvement and Engagement Update

The Committee received the update which provided assurance on how people and communities were involved at community area and ICB wide level and summaries key involvement activity underway across the system. The update also included the NENC Healthwatch network end of year report for 2025/26 and the Healthwatch report covering a thematic review of hospital discharge related reports covering the period from 1 March 2024 to 31 May 2026.

Update on Compliance with EQIA Process

The Committee received a summary report which provided an update on the Equality Quality Impact Assessments (EQIA) within the ICB as at 16 June 2026, highlighting current practices, challenges, and actions taken to improve the process and ensure quality and safety in service changes.

Safeguarding Assurance Interim Report

The report advised on the assurance work being undertaken by the ICB's safeguarding team following implementation of the ICB's new operating model. Highlights in the report included ongoing risk relating to compliance with initial health assessments for children entering care, national legal and policy developments including Deprivation of Liberty, demand associated with statutory reviews and need ensure the ICB's strategic commissioning and assurance role is clearly communicated to partners.

Subcommittee minutes

The Committee received the following confirmed minutes for assurance

- South Area – Quality and Safety Subcommittee minutes, 17 April 2026

Supporting Documentation

- Confirmed minutes Quality and Safety Committee meeting 14 May 2026 – Appendix 1

Conflicts of Interest

Any potential/actual conflicts of interest associated with the paper? (please tick)

Yes

No

✓

Recommendation / Action Required

The Board is asked to receive the Quality and Safety Committee Escalation and Assurance Report and ask any questions of the Committee Chair.

The Board is asked to receive confirmed minutes Appendix 1 from the meeting held on 14 May 2026 for information and assurance.

Report author	Jane Smailes, Corporate Governance Support Officer
----------------------	--

Date of Approval	15/07/2026
-------------------------	------------