Item: 10.2

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

BOARD 25 NOVEMBER 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:	12 November 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.*	

Patient Experience – Musculoskeletal (MSK) Service Experiences – public feedback from County Durham
The report provided a short summary of recent accounts of musculoskeletal and physiotherapy services collected from people in one provider locality, indicating some positive clinical care alongside concerns about access, waiting, communication and co-ordination. It was acknowledged the sample was small and not representative of all service users but provided insight into how the pathway was experienced by some people. The QSC has commissioned a wider, greater in-depth review of the MSK services across the ICB to evaluate quality and effectiveness.

Review of Terms of Reference and Assurance over Discharge of Committee Responsibilities
The Committee received a report regarding the alignment of the Quality and Safety Committee's Terms of Reference with the NHS England model and how the Committee discharges its delegated responsibilities. The Committee approved some minor changes to membership and quoracy in its Terms of Reference.

Quality Management Framework
The paper provided the Quality Management Framework (QMF) focussing on the discharge of the ICB's statutory quality responsibilities, including support for continuous improvement across patient safety, clinical effectiveness and patient experience alongside duties relating to inequalities, safeguarding, SEND, infection prevention and public accountability.

ICBP002 Continuing Healthcare Local Resolution and Appeals Policy
The Committee approved the updated Continuing Healthcare Local Resolution and Appeals Policy. The revised wording strengthened timescales, named case management, regular progress updates, accessible participation, consent and representation arrangements, evidence handling and written decision-making.

ICBP004 Interagency Dispute Policy
The Committee approved the updated Interagency Dispute Policy. The review strengthened clarity, consistency and alignment with the relevant National Frameworks for organisational disagreements

concerning adult CHC, children and young people's continuing care, joint funding. It was noted that individual appeals and complaints, and section 117 aftercare disputes, follow separate routes.

Thirlwall Inquiry report and recommendations
The Committee was presented with a copy of the NHS England letter which outlined a series of actions that Trusts should immediately progress in response to the Inquiry's findings.

Assure: *Areas of assurance that the Committee has received*

Board Assurance Framework and Risk Management Report – Quarter 2, 2026/27
The purpose of the report was to provide the Committee with a refreshed Board Assurance Framework for Quarter 2 and an updated corporate risk register for review and consideration.

Involvement and Engagement Update
The report provided a summary update on the ICB's involvement and engagement activity across the North East and North Cumbria and included the partnership working with Healthwatch. The report highlighted overall themes from feedback, overview of service change and involvement activity, community insight and involvement report, NENC Healthwatch Network, Patient Experience Assurance Group, People's Hub and Community Engagement Library.

Quality and Safety Report
The report provided a condensed synopsis of any key risks or concerns that were presented to the Safe and Effective Care Group in September 26 and onward cascade to QSC. Key highlights included update on Never Events, the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) CAMHS inspection report published by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in August 2026, Infection Prevention and Control themes, Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicators and early abortion medication.

ICB Safeguarding Annual Report 2025-26
The Committee received the Safeguarding Annual Report 2025-26 which provided assurance on the discharge of statutory safeguarding duties, system governance, provider oversight, achievements, emerging risk and priorities for 2026/27. The report also covered commissioning assurance, learning from 94 statutory reviews, and delivery across Prevent, domestic and sexual violence, serious violence, mental capacity, child death review and related programmes.

Safeguarding Assurance Report
The report provided the Committee with an overview of safeguarding assurance across the ICB and commissioned services. It summarised key areas of progress, identified risks and gaps requiring ongoing scrutiny. Key points from the report included overall assurance, provider and service pressures, workforce and training, multi-agency arrangements, high-risk oversight and priority actions.

North East North Cumbria ICB Children in Care and Care Leavers Annual Report 2025-2026
The reported provided an overview of the ICB's work and responsibilities in relation to health and wellbeing of children in care, care-experience young people and care leavers, summarised current position, progress and key achievements and set out the priorities for the year ahead. The report identified ongoing risks relating to workforce capacity, late notification, out-of-area placements and unwanted variation across existing SLA arrangements and Children in Care health teams.

Subcommittee minutes
The Committee received the following confirmed minutes for assurance

- Safe and Effective Care Group Minutes – 24 July 2026
- Safeguarding Assurance Meeting Minutes – 25 August 2026

Supporting Documentation

Confirmed minutes Quality and Safety Committee meeting 10 September 2026 – Appendix 1

Conflicts of Interest

Any potential/actual conflicts of interest associated with the paper?	**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 September 2026 for information and assurance.	
Report author	Jane Smailes, Corporate Governance Support Officer
Date of Approval	15 November 2026