

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

BOARD	
29 JULY 2025	
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 10 July 2025 and the confirmed minutes from 8 May 2025.	
Key points	
<p>The Committee considered several issues and supporting papers at its meeting held on 10 July 2025 and the key points are summarised below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality Report - 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. There remain challenges around Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI) rates with continued targeted investigations, trust action plans and further ICB site visits; HbA1c testing calibration failures; maternity service pressures remain around staffing issues and midwifery workforce recruitment; follow up actions and quality improvement plans with NHS England following CQC inspection at a trust. ICB Safe Staffing Assurance against the Developing Workforce Safeguards Standards – The paper presented the findings of a scoping review of safer staffing reportable requirements within acute and mental health trusts across NENC. The review had been requested by the Chief Nursing Officer for England to support raising awareness and discussions around the current compliance with regulatory frameworks for nurse safer staffing. The review was conducted through a three-part process of ICB-led tabletop audit, Trust self-assessments and face-to-face panel review with ICB quality representatives. The process has been shared and adopted regionally as an example of best practice. NENC Equality Quality Impact Assessment (EQIA) Update – The report provided an updated position regarding the completion of EQIAs as of June 2025 and highlighted the progress and challenges relating to capacity and embedding processes. Plans include transitioning to a nationally recommended template, simplifying processes and providing training through webinars and workshops. Modern Slavery Statement 2025 Annual Update – The Committee noted the annual update was governed by legislative and regulatory requirements. A formal update to the Modern Slavery Act 2015 is expected following a Government consultation. NENC ICB 2024/25 Safeguarding Annual Report – The report provided assurance to the Committee regarding the ICB safeguarding functions. The report provided evidence that the ICB 	

was able to demonstrate that appropriate safeguarding governance systems were in place for discharging its statutory duties and functions in line with key legislation.

- **Involvement and Engagement Update and Annual Involvement Report 2024/25** – The Committee received the update which highlighted how the ICB continues to involve people in discussions around health services at community, place and ICB-wide levels. It provided a high level summary and oversight of key activities taking place to support implementation of strategy and provided assurance on the ICB's commitment to listening to the patient voice and experience. The NENC Healthwatch Network Overview Report for 2024/25 was included as an appendix and the Annual Involvement Report 2024/25 was approved for publication.

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

- Quality and Safety Risk Register and Board Assurance Framework – Quarter 1, 2025/26
- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAI) Subcommittee Minutes
- North and South Area Quality and Safety Subcommittee Minutes
- SEND Assurance Subcommittee Minutes
- System Quality Group Minutes

Recommendation/action required

The Board is asked to;

- Note the key highlights from the meeting held on 10 July 2025
- Receive the confirmed minutes from 8 May 2025 meeting (appendix 1) for information and assurance
- Note the committee's ongoing concerns about the higher than anticipated HCAI rates, particularly in some trusts, and then actions being taken to improve this.

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	17 July 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					