

Quality, Safety and Experience Committee

Terms of Reference – 2023/24

Reviewed by Quality Safety and Experience Committee:

10th January 2023

Approved by Board: 30 March 2023

QUALITY, SAFETY AND EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The University Health Board (UHB) Standing Orders provide that “*The Board may and, where directed by the Welsh Government must, appoint Committees of the UHB Board either to undertake specific functions on the Board’s behalf or to provide advice and assurance to the Board in the exercise of its functions. The Board’s commitment to openness and transparency in the conduct of all its business extends equally to the work carried out on its behalf by Committees*”.
- 1.2 In line with standing orders (and the UHB Scheme of Delegation), the Board shall nominate a Committee to be known as the **Quality, Safety and Experience Committee**. This Committee’s focus is on ensuring patient and citizen quality and safety including activities traditionally referred to as ‘clinical governance’. The detailed terms of reference and operating arrangements set by the Board in respect of this Committee are set out below.

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1 The purpose of the Quality, Safety and Experience Committee “the Committee” is to provide:
- evidence based and timely **advice** to the Board to assist it in discharging its functions and meeting its responsibilities with regard to quality, safety and experience of health services;
 - **assurance** to the Board on the setting of local organisational Quality and Safety standards and supporting an organisational safety culture.
 - evidence based and timely **advice** to the Board to assist it in discharging its functions and meeting its responsibilities with regard to the quality, safety and experience of public health, health promotion and health protection activities;
 - **assurance** to the Board in relation to the UHB arrangements for safeguarding and improving the quality and safety of patient and citizen centred health improvement and care services in accordance with its stated objectives and the requirements and standards determined for the NHS in Wales;
 - **assurance** to the Board in relation to improving the experience of patients, carers citizens and all those that come into contact with our services including those provided by other organizations or in a partnership arrangement

3. DELEGATED POWERS AND AUTHORITY

- 3.1 The Committee will, in respect of its **provision of advice** to the Board:
- oversee the initial development of the UHB plans for the development and delivery of high quality and safe healthcare and health improvement services

consistent with the Board's overall Strategy and any requirements and standards set for NHS bodies in Wales;

- consider the implications for quality, safety and experience arising from the development of the UHB Strategy, Integrated Medium Term Plan or plans of its stakeholders and partners, including those arising from any Joint Committees of the Board;
- consider the implications for patient and citizen experience arising from internal and external review/investigation reports and actions arising from the work of external regulators;
- consider the outcomes for patient feedback methodologies in line with the National Clinical Services Framework: A Learning Health and Care System.
- review achievement against the Health and Care Standards in Wales to inform the Annual Quality and Annual Governance Statements;
- consider and approve policies as determined by the Board.
- Review and monitor the implementation of the Health Board's Quality, Safety and Experience Framework and oversee the necessary developments to deliver the eight key areas:
 - Organisational Safety Culture
 - Leadership and the prioritisation of quality, safety and experience
 - Patient experience and involvement in quality, safety and experience
 - Patient safety learning and communication
 - Staff engagement and involvement in safety, quality and experience
 - Patient safety, quality and experience data and insight
 - Professionalism of patient safety, quality and experience
 - Quality Governance Arrangements
- Ensure that the Health Boards Framework aligns to the Welsh Government Quality and Safety Framework 2021: Learning and Improving and that the organisation functions as a quality management system to ensure that care meets the six domains of quality; care that is safe, effective, patient centred, timely, efficient and equitable.

3.2 The Committee will, in respect of its **assurance role**, seek assurances that quality governance arrangements are appropriately designed and operating effectively to ensure the provision of high quality, safe healthcare and improvement services across the whole of the UHB activities and responsibilities.

3.3 To achieve this, the Committee's programme of work will be designed to ensure that, in relation to all aspects of quality, safety and patient and citizen experience:

- there is clear, consistent strategic direction, strong leadership and transparent lines of accountability;
- the organisation, at all levels has a citizen centred approach, putting citizens, patients and carers, patient safety and safeguarding above all other considerations;
- the care planned or provided across the breadth of the organisation's functions is consistently applied, based on public health principles, sound evidence, clinical effectiveness and meets agreed standards;
- the organisation, at all levels has the right systems and processes in place to deliver, from a patient, carer and citizen perspective - efficient, effective, timely and safe services;
- the organisation has effective systems and processes to meet the Health and Care Standards;

- the workforce is appropriately selected, trained, supported and responsive to ensure safe, quality and patient centred services ensuring that regulatory arrangements, professional standards and registration/revalidation requirements are maintained;
- there is an ethos of continual quality improvement and regular methods of updating the workforce in the skills needed to demonstrate quality improvement throughout the organisation;
- there is good team working, collaboration and partnership working to provide the best possible outcomes for its citizens;
- risks are actively identified and robustly managed at all levels of the organisation;
- decisions are based upon valid, accurate, complete and timely data and information;
- there is continuous improvement in the standard of quality and safety across the whole organisation – continuously monitored through the Health and Care Standards in Wales;
- all reasonable steps are taken to prevent, detect and rectify irregularities or deficiencies in the quality and safety of care provided, and in particular that:
 - sources of internal assurance are reliable, e.g., internal audit and clinical audit teams have the capacity and capability to deliver;
 - recommendations made by internal and external reviewers are considered and acted upon on a timely basis; and
 - appropriate review is carried out and corrective action is taken arising from incidents, complaints and claims, known collectively as ‘concerns’,

3.4 The Committee will advise the Board on the adoption of a set of key indicators of safety, quality and patient and citizen experience against which the UHB performance will be regularly assessed and reported on through the Annual Quality Statement (if required).

Authority

3.5 The Committee is authorised by the Board to investigate or have investigated any activity within its terms of reference. In doing so, the Committee shall have the right to inspect any books, records or documents of the UHB relevant to the Committee’s remit and ensuring patient/client and staff confidentiality, as appropriate. It may seek any relevant information from any:

- employee (and all employees are directed to cooperate with any reasonable request made by the Committee); and
- other Committee, Sub Committee or group set up by the Board to assist it in the delivery of its functions.

3.6 The Committee is authorised by the Board to obtain outside legal or other independent professional advice and to secure the attendance of outsiders with relevant experience and expertise if it considers it necessary, in accordance with the Board’s procurement, budgetary and other requirements.

Access

- 3.7 The Chair of the Committee shall have reasonable access to Executive Directors and other relevant senior staff.

Sub Committees and Groups

- 3.8 Within the Quality, Safety and Experience Framework the Board has approved the following Sub-Committees shall report into the Quality, Safety and Experience Committee:

- 7 Clinical Board Quality and Safety Sub-Committees
- Clinical Effectiveness Committee
- Clinical Safety Group
- Learning Committee
- Concerns Group
- Operational Groups (by exception)

These Committees will report in the Quality, Safety and Experience Committee on a rolling programme as set out in the Annual Work Plan of the Committee and after each of their respective meetings.

- 3.9 Other Quality, Safety and Experience Committee related Groups will also report into the Committee, once established, and as and when required.
- 3.10 The Committee has authority to establish short life task and finish groups which are time limited to focus on a specific matter of advice or assurance as determined by the Board or Committee.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Members

- 4.1 A minimum of four (4) members, comprising:

Chair	Independent Member of the Board
Members	3 other Independent Members of the Board, to include a Member of the UHB Audit Committee.

The Committee may also co-opt additional independent 'external' members from outside the organization to provide specialist skills, knowledge and expertise.

Attendees

- 4.2. The following officers **are required to be in attendance:**

- Executive Nurse Director (Joint Lead)
- Executive Medical Director (Joint Lead)
- Executive Director of Therapies and Health Sciences
- Chief Operating Officer
- Executive Director of Public Health
- Director of Corporate Governance
- Associate Medical Director for Safety and Governance

- Assistant Director of Patient Safety, Quality and Improvement
- Assistant Director of Patient Experience

Key Directors should be represented if they are unable to attend a meeting.

Other Executive Directors or deputies should attend from time to time as determined by the Committee Chair.

4.3. By invitation:

The Committee Chair may extend invitations to attend Committee meetings as required from within or outside the organization to whom the Committee considers should attend, taking account of the matters under consideration at each meeting. This may include:

- 2 x Staff Representatives and
- the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Community Health Council.

Secretariat

4.4 Secretary of the Committee: as determined by the Director of Corporate Governance.

Member Appointments

4.5 The membership of the Committee shall be determined by the Board, based on the recommendation of the UHB Chair - taking account of the balance of skills and expertise necessary to deliver the Committee's remit and subject to any specific requirements or directions made by the Welsh Government.

4.6 Terms and conditions of appointment, (including any remuneration and reimbursement) in respect of co-opted independent external members are determined by the Board, based upon the recommendation of the UHB Chair and, where appropriate on the basis of advice from the UHB Remuneration and Terms of Service Committee.

Support to Committee Members

4.7 The Director of Corporate Governance on behalf of the Committee Chair, shall:

- arrange the provision of advice and support to Committee members on any aspect related to the conduct of their role; and
- ensure the provision of a programme of development for Committee members in conjunction with the Director of Workforce and Organizational Development.

5. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Quorum

5.1 At least three members must be present to ensure the quorum of the Committee, one of whom should be the Committee Chair or Vice Chair.

Frequency of Meetings

- 5.2 Meetings shall be held no less than bi-monthly, and otherwise as the Chair of the Committee deems necessary – consistent with the UHB Annual Plan of Board Business.

Withdrawal of individuals in attendance

- 5.3 The Committee may ask any or all of those who normally attend but who are not members to withdraw to facilitate open and frank discussion of particular matters.

6. RELATIONSHIPS AND ACCOUNTABILITIES WITH THE BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEES/GROUPS

- 6.1 Although the Board has delegated authority to the Committee for the exercise of certain functions as set out within these terms of reference, it retains overall responsibility and accountability for ensuring the quality and safety of healthcare for its citizens. The Committee is directly accountable to the Board for its performance in exercising the functions set out in these Terms of Reference.

- 6.2 The Committee, through its Chair and members, shall work closely with the Board's other committees, including joint (sub) committees and groups to provide advice and assurance to the Board through the:

- joint planning and co-ordination of Board and Committee business; and
- sharing of information.

In doing so, contributing to the integration of good governance across the organisation, ensuring that all sources of assurance are incorporated into the Board's overall risk and assurance framework.

- 6.3 The Committee shall embed the UHB values, corporate standards, priorities and requirements, for example, public health, equality, diversity and human rights through the conduct of its business.

7. REPORTING AND ASSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS

- 7.1 The Committee Chair shall:

- report formally, regularly and on a timely basis to the Board on the Committee's activities. This includes verbal updates on activity, the submission of Committee minutes and written reports, as well as the presentation of the Annual Quality Statement.
- bring to the Board's specific attention any significant matters under consideration by the Committee;
- ensure appropriate escalation arrangements are in place to alert the UHB Chair, Chief Executive or Chairs of other relevant Committees of any urgent/critical matters that may compromise patient care and affect the operation and/or reputation of the UHB.

- 7.2 The Board may also require the Committee Chair to report upon the Committee's activities at public meetings, for example, AGM, or to community partners and other stakeholders, where this is considered appropriate, for example, where the Committee's assurance role relates to a joint or shared responsibility.

- 7.3 The Director of Corporate Governance, on behalf of the Board, shall oversee a process of regular and rigorous self-assessment and evaluation of the Committee's

performance and operation including that of any sub committees established. In doing so, account will be taken of the requirements set out in the NHS Wales Quality and Safety Committee Handbook.

8. APPLICABILITY OF STANDING ORDERS TO COMMITTEE BUSINESS

8.1 The requirements for the conduct of business as set out in the UHB Standing Orders are equally applicable to the operation of the Committee, except in the following areas:

- Quorum
- Notifying and equipping Committee members – Committee members shall be sent an Agenda and a complete set of supporting papers at least seven (7) clear days before a formal Committee meeting (unless specified otherwise in law).
- Notifying the public and others – at least seven (7) clear days before each Committee meeting a public notice of the time and place of the meeting, and the public part of the agenda, shall be displayed on the Health Board's website together with the papers supporting the public part of the agenda (unless specified otherwise in law).

9. REVIEW

9.1 These Terms of Reference and operating arrangements shall be reviewed on an annual basis by the Committee with reference to the Board.