

# THE FOUNDATION QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GROUP: A PLATFORM FOR ENGAGEMENT FOR FOUNDATION DOCTORS INTO QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

By: Karthickkumar Selvakumar,  
Sooraiya Begum Husnoo

## Introduction

Within the NHS, the care delivered to patients is continually developing and improving. Quality improvement (QI) is one way in which this can be achieved.

QI is about using a systematic approach to analyse current performance and then set up interventions to improve it. Within the NHS, Health care professionals play a significant role in this endeavour.

Here, at East Lancashire Hospitals Trust, a foundation doctor-led group has been set up to spread awareness about QI, as well as encourage participation in QI projects within the trust.

### Mission Statement:

*“Creating an ethos where foundation doctors take a leading role in raising awareness about QI, facilitating & implementing QI projects in ELHT by August 2017”*

## Objectives

### FY QI Leads:

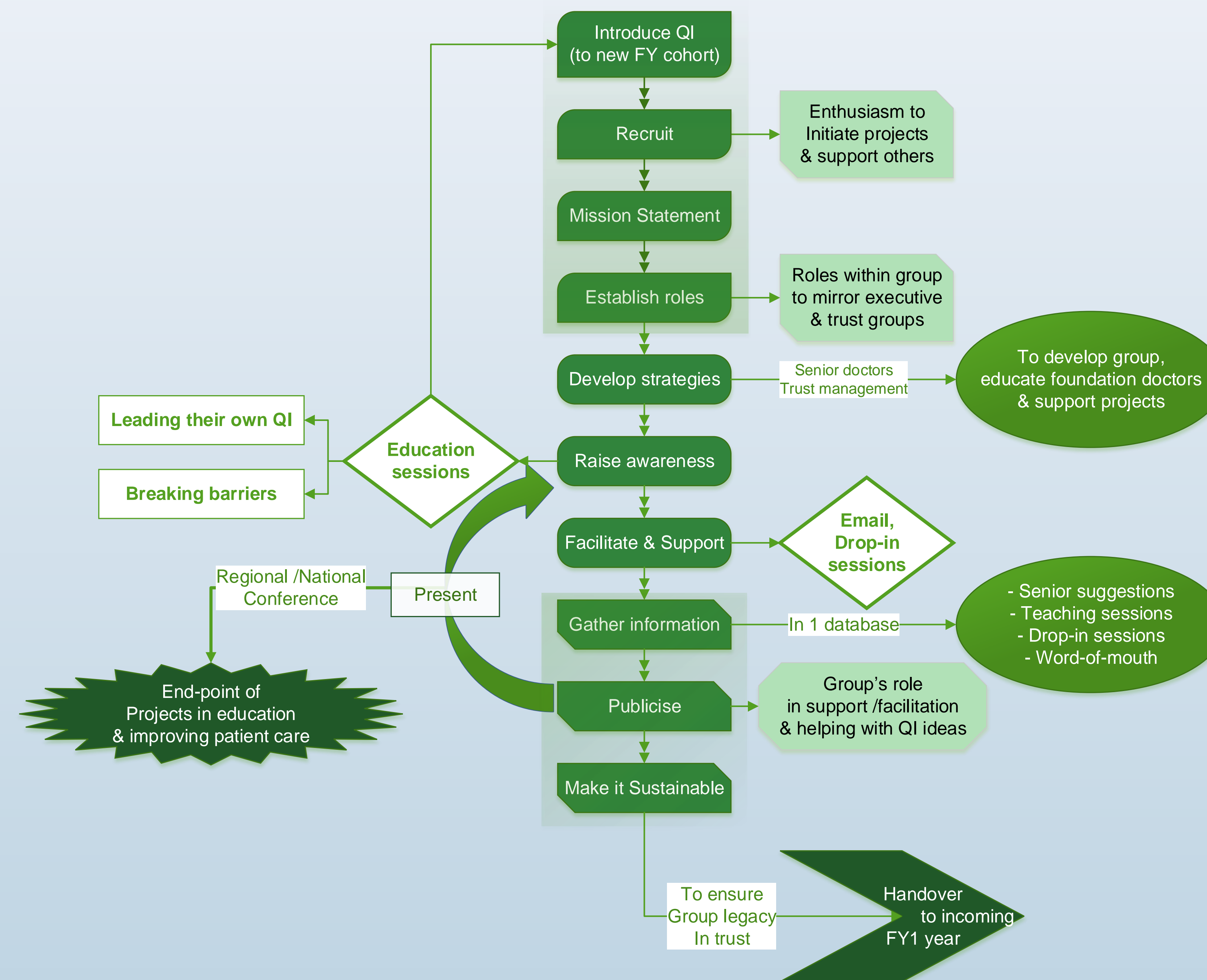
- Empowering foundation trainees to make positive changes in the work place, thereby increasing morale
- Ability to identify possible areas for improvement
- Implementing projects & teambuilding with MDT
- Gaining valuable experience from QI experts and senior management
- Educating peers
- Developing leadership skills

### Aims for the year:

- To have **regular meetings** to aid any foundation doctors with ideas for implementation of a QI project
- To create and maintain a **projects database** to avoid duplication of work and to build upon previous work
- To **raise awareness** about quality improvement
- To **network** with other organisations to help find other opportunities/ examples of good QI projects that help improve quality of care in ELHT
- To inspire people to see QI positively through **presentation** of the work that has been done

## Methods

The following chart sets out the steps followed in order to become an established, supportive and successful QI group



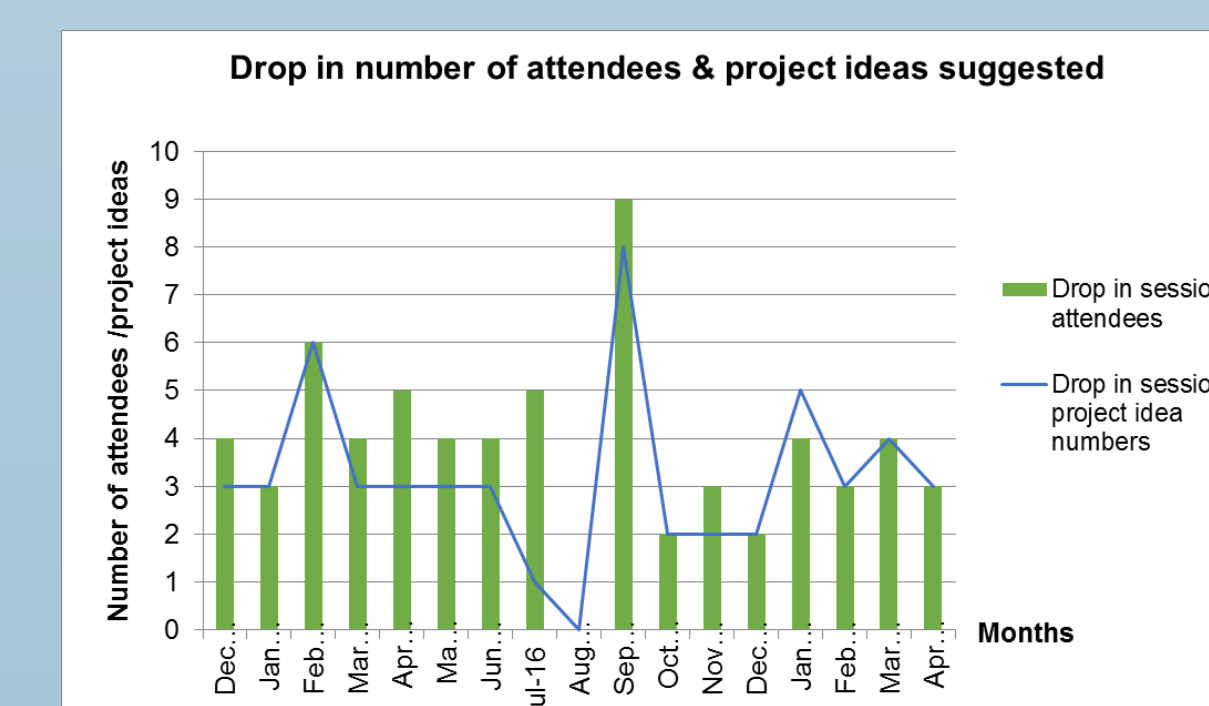
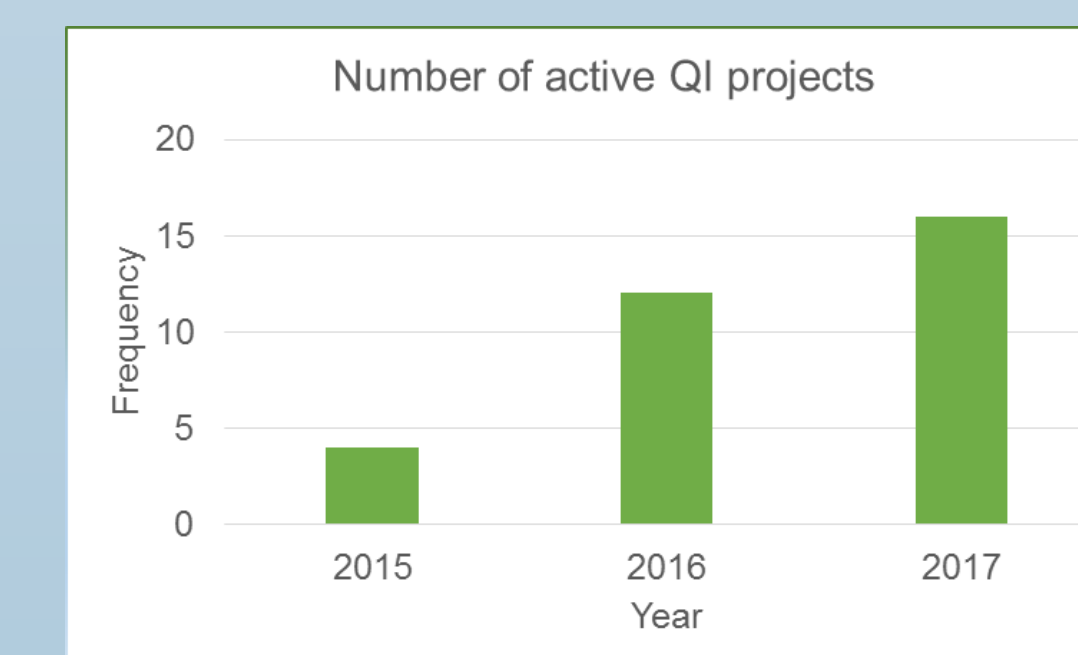
## Results

### Initial Conclusions:

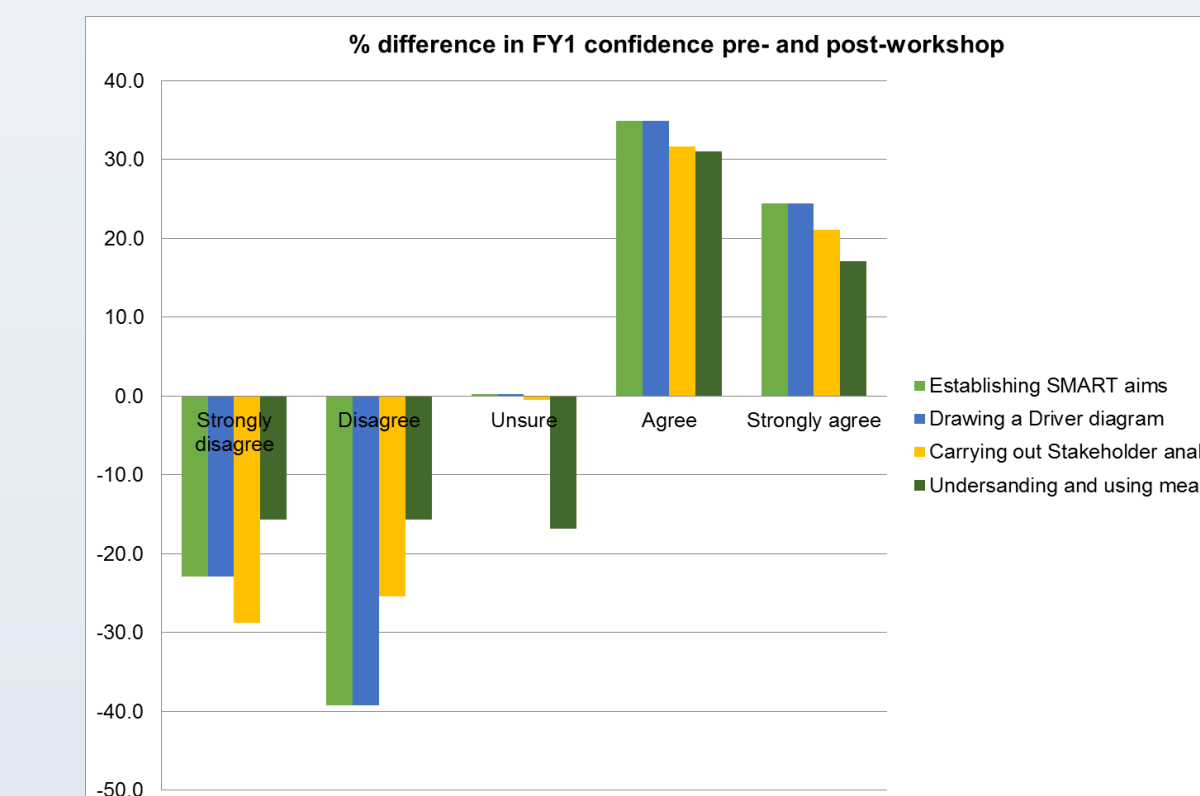
- Education about QI increased
- Awareness of QI increased
- Number of QI projects increased
- Having a foundation doctor led QI group is of benefit to a trust wanting to increase QI projects
- This project is limited by its short time in existence and by our measures being only registered QI

### What happened next:

- We presented this work at a few conferences
- As time went on it became more and more difficult for people to attend sessions as FY2s.



## Results (continued)



### Post-workshop:

- More FY doctors agreed or strongly agreed with feeling confident in running QI projects
- Fewer people agreed with statements suggesting low confidence

## Analysis & Learning points

### Examining the aims a year down the line:

- Regular meetings carried out (over last 18 months) & a **new group recruited** to take over
- Attempt to create and maintain a projects database revealed **issues with extent of work** required
- **Educational session structure improved** and a series created – Sustainable session plans still need to be put in place
- We are now in touch with Haelo to **help build training for leads internally** – long lasting links still need to be made
- We have presented at a couple of **conferences**

## Conclusion

There is clear evidence which demonstrates that the Foundation QI group has clearly promoted an ethos where foundation doctors are well supported to do QI projects, gain a basic understanding of QI concepts and have a platform for getting involved into QI work.

Whilst the education structure, drop in structure, group roles and mission statement may still change year on year, the presence of a peer led foundation doctor team has certainly helped in making QI more understandable, applicable and enjoyable at ELHT.

### Focus of Foundation QI group:

Awareness  
Support for QI projects  
Database development  
Project allocation

Acknowledgements: Nicole Bagri, Jennifer-Perez Khan, Susannah Leaf, Ahmed El Muntasar, Vicky Upton, David Dixon, Andy Hayward, Rebecca Kuruvilla, Alexander Malin, Danielle Cowlin, Agalya Sivakumar