

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:

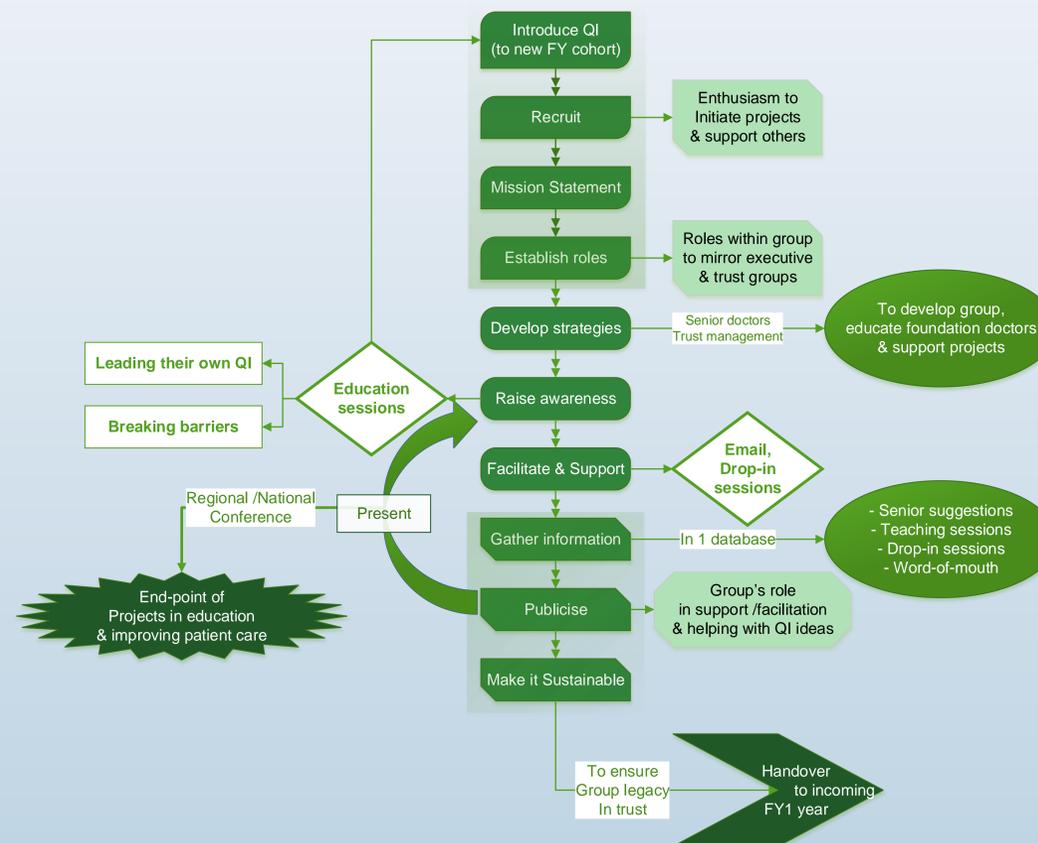
- Empowering foundation trainees to make positive changes in the work place, thereby increasing morale
- Ability to identify possible areas for improvement
- Implementing projects & teambuilding with MDT
- Gaining valuable experience from QI experts and senior management
- Educating peers
- Developing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



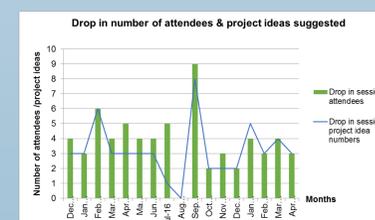
Results

Initial Conclusions:

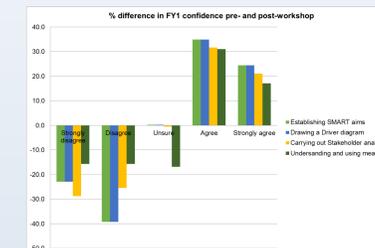
- Education about QI increased
- Awareness of QI increased
- Number of QI projects increased
- Having a foundation doctor led QI group is of benefit to a trust wanting to increase QI projects
- This project is limited by its short time in existence and by our measures being only registered QI

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

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