Fire Report – Council of Governors 16th January 2018

Situation

This report puts into context the fire incidents recorded within NHFT and addresses concerns raised around governor awareness of fire incidents and reporting.

Background

The Health, Safety and Risk Committee provides the Trust with an overarching view of health, safety and welfare and assurance that non-clinical risks are effectively managed on behalf of the organisation. Risks identified by the committee are highlighted in the summary report to the Quality and Governance committee.

Fire safety is a standing agenda item at the bi-monthly Health, Safety and Risk Committee with the committee monitoring and reviewing all fire safety issues. The Trust's Fire Officer provides a report giving an overview of any areas of concern for fire safety and required actions, overview of fire incidents recorded, training/fire drills undertaken and status of fire risk assessments.

Assessment

Fire training is part of the Trust mandatory training programme for all staff. At a recent fire safety training session fire incident figures were used to underline the importance of all staff being conversant with fire safety procedures and action to take in the event of a fire. The figures quoted (17 fires in 2016) are from the information given in the staff induction booklet. These figures were taken from the fire incident data recorded in Datix for 2016 and relate to the incidents recorded under the sub-categories of actual or suspected arson and small contained fire/smouldering materials. A breakdown of those incidents is given below:

4 of the fire incidents were caused by electrical faults – 1 light fitting, 1 dishwasher, 1 wall socket and 1 overheated shredder.
1 incident occurred due to bread being left on in a toaster.
1 occurred due to smoke when clay models in the OT kitchen were put into the oven at too high a temperature.
6 incidents related to patients setting fire to something – clothes, mattress, aerosol.
5 incidents were waste bin fires in gardens/smoking related.

Appropriate action was taken in relation to these incidents with staff responding correctly by isolating power, extinguishing fire, evacuating the area and where required contacting the fire brigade - as a result minimal harm/damage occurred. 1 patient experienced smoke inhalation due to the smoke emitted when trying to set light to their jumper and another patient experienced harm not because of setting light to clothing they had removed but as a result of tampering with their central venous port valve. Staff are reminded of the importance of ongoing vigilance whilst undertaking their tasks including searches of clients and rooms to remove potential sources of ignition.

Recommendations

Note that the ongoing programme of preventative fire safety measures including provision, checks and maintenance of fire detection systems and staff training ensures that should a fire occur the risk is mitigated appropriately to reduce the likelihood of loss/harm.

Governance Table

For Board and Board Committees:		
Paper sponsored by:	Paul Martin – Director of Corporate Governance	
Paper authored by:	Tina Perkins – Health and Safety Risk Manager, Trust Policy Lead, MDSO	
For groups/forum below Board Committee level:		
Paper sponsored by:		
Paper authored by:		
Date submitted:	8.1.18	
State which Board Committee or other forum within the Trust's governance structure, if any, have previously considered the report/this issue and the date of the relevant meeting(s):		
If considered elsewhere, state the level of assurance gained by the Board Committee or other forum i.e. assured/ partially assured / not assured:		
State whether this is a 'one off' report or, if not, when an update report will be provided for the purposes of corporate Agenda planning	One off report to address fire concerns raised in respect of fire incident stats for 2016	
DIGB Q strategic alignment*:	**D**evelop	
	Innovate	
	Grow	
	Build **Q**uality	✔
Organisational Risk Register considerations:	List risk number and title of risk	
False and misleading information (FOMI) considerations:	None believed to apply	
Equality considerations:	None believed to apply	