


COVER SHEET

Meeting and Date of meeting	Trust Board 26 th October 2023	
Title of paper	Cervical Cytology Service	
Accountable Director	Name	Cathrine Reid
	Position	Director Surgery & Clinical Services
Report Author	Name	Barry Conway and Geoff Kennedy
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This paper sits within the Trust Board role of:	Accountability	
This paper is presented for:	Assurance	
Links to Trust Corporate Objectives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Promoting Safe, High Quality Care
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Supporting people to live long, healthy active lives
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Improving our services
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Making best use of our resources
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Being a great place to work – supporting, developing and valuing our staff
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Working in partnership

	<p><i>The report author will complete this report cover sheet fully. The Accountable Director must satisfy themselves that the cover sheet is accurate and fully reflects the report. The expectation is that the Accountable Director has read and agreed the content (cover sheet and report).</i></p> <p><i>Its purpose is to provide the Trust Board/Committee with a clear summary of the report/paper being presented, how it impacts on the people we serve and the key matters for attention and the ask of the Trust Board/Committee</i></p>
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1. Detailed summary of paper contents:

Executive summary – key points:

- RCPATH were engaged in providing a risk assessment and to advise in relation to the possible need for a lookback
- Risk Assessment report has been received from RCPATH. It documents their findings and makes 8 recommendations for consideration and implementation by Trust and / or PHA.
- RCPATH do not recommend a Lookback Review, rather full implementation of HPV primary screening with consideration of bringing higher risk women forward for earlier screening.
- An action plan for the implementation of the recommendations and structure, with joint chairmanship from Trust and PHA for the oversight and accountability for the implementation process is in place
- The Trust's Cervical Screening Steering group has accepted the report, its recommendation and the proposed way forward for implementation. The Steering Group has now been stood down
- Risk relating to Cervical Cytology Backlog and Screener Performance has been added to the Corporate Risk register
- A scheduled United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) assessment of Cellular Pathology took place on the 4th-6th October. It was decided by the assessors to temporarily suspend accreditation pending further assessment.
- A decision was made to cease from screening until accreditation could be restored to provide assurance to service users
- The PHA will determine where the smears will be sent in the interim.
- On the 9th October BBC news NI covered the story
- Information lines were set up in the PHA and in the Trust – calls peaked at approximately 200 on the 10th October but have dropped fairly sharply since.

RISK ASSESSMENT

CYTOLOGY SERVICE

- SLT have been kept appraised
- Update on implementation of the recommendations in the RCPATH report is detailed in the paper. In summary good progress is being made with 4 recommendations implemented, 2 partially implemented and 2 others being progressed regionally by PHA / SPPG.

2. Areas of improvement/achievement:

- Approximately 18,000 smears have been sent for HPV testing – mitigating the risks around delays in reporting
- Risk Stratification has been completed and a methodology for review is currently being completed.
- The plan is to introduce Primary HPV testing by December 2023 thereby releasing significant screening capacity
- Current a decision is pending in relation to the reporting on the basis of a negative HPV test (thereby eliminating the backlog)

3. Areas of concern/risk/challenge:

Areas of concern / risk include:

- Ongoing media interest in this subject matter
- Pace of implementation of HPV Primary Screening – not within the control of the Trust
- Communication of complex information to the range of the different stakeholder and interested parties – including the public, media interest parties while recommendations are being actioned
- Ongoing backlog in reporting smears which may lead to a delay in reporting abnormal smears
- Redistribution of smears to services already under pressure
- Temporary suspension of accreditation for Cervical Cytology

4. Impact: Provide details on the impact of the following and how. If this is N/A you should explain why this is an appropriate response.

Corporate Risk Register	Backlog and screener performance risk are logged on the Corporate Risk Register
Board Assurance Framework	Updates to Trust Board, Governance Committee and SLT
Equality and Human Rights	We fully acknowledge that in the main, this issue will affect our female population in the Southern Trust area