

Case study – *Taking it on Trust*

Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust – data assurance

At Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust, the board recognised that inadequate data quality presented a significant risk to the achievement of its strategic objectives. Over the last 15 months, it has implemented a programme of actions to improve data quality and to assure the board of the quality of operational data.

Key milestones have included:

- December 2007 – Information governance highlighted as a board priority.
- January 2008 – ‘Data amnesty’ to identify data gaps and quality issues.
- January 2008 (then quarterly) – information management & technology (IM&T) governance committee receives progress report on directorates’ data quality action plans.
- April/June 2008 – Information strategy updated.
- June/September 2008 – Data quality strategy developed, setting out the plans for tackling data quality at source and including audit functionality.
- Late 2008/March 2009 – new patient administration system implemented.

Lead analysts work with the directorates, IT projects team and data quality team as necessary to alleviate the identified problems and report back to IM&T governance committee. A non-executive director chairs this committee and membership comprises a wide cross-section of senior officers, including the medical director. The committee reports the overall data quality position to both the board and the risk and assurance committee.

Since the inception of the information gaps and data quality report, over 75 per cent of data gaps have been closed.

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