

The North London Partners Quality Improvement Network

Why we need a QI network

The King's Fund defines Quality Improvement (QI) as "the use of methods and tools to continuously improve quality of care and outcomes for patients." There are many QI approaches used in healthcare; the most accessible and commonly used is the [Model for Improvement](#). What they have in common is a commitment to carrying out change in a structured way, testing ideas in practice and learning as we go, and involving colleagues and patients in the process.

The aim of QI is to create sustainable and lasting changes in practice that help to deliver the [IHI triple aim](#).

As more people are using QI and seeing the benefits, there is a big opportunity for us to come together to share evidence-based learning about how to improve the way we deliver health and care to our local population. Improvement is most effective when learning and collaboration takes place between services, care settings and organisations. QI offers a common language and approach which makes this easier.

Network aim

The North London Partners Quality Improvement (QI) Network exists to accelerate the spread of this learning and collaboration across North Central London. It is an active improvement community which comes together to collaborate on improvement work and share best practice across the health and care system.

The Network aims to be a platform for:

- Sharing good ideas, learning and relevant information
- Defining and improving quality and innovation
- Keeping QI work simple and realistic; and using an Evidence Based approach to practice
- Creating a standardised approach to how QI is used to improve patient care
- Driving and speeding-up change across NCL

Membership:

The Network is open to health and social care staff from all NCL boroughs (Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington) who are interested in QI or are a delivering/planning to deliver QI projects. This includes but is not limited to primary, secondary and tertiary health care, social care and the voluntary sector.

Members are asked to:

- Offer both support and critical specialist input to other members working on QI projects
- Be open to sharing good practice, evidence and data with other members
- Contribute to the development of an improvement community across NCL
- Ensure the organisations they are representing are well-informed of QI projects and programmes
- Take a proactive role in ensuring that QI projects are championed across NCL

How we work

Our main forum for collaboration is quarterly shared learning events. Network members set direction for event topics and themes. Events are organised and facilitated by North London Partners' and chaired by a clinical expert on the event's theme.

Members are encouraged to share learning from events with colleagues and to follow-up on contacts and opportunities. This will be supported by North London Partners, who will facilitate networking opportunities and sharing of best practice between meetings, using IT and social media to make this easy for members. Additional support comes from Health Education England and through to the [Life QI](#) online platform for managing QI projects and sharing QI work with others.

North London Partners will also facilitate members to get more involved in QI activity by sharing improvement resources, case studies, funding opportunities etc. which are identified by horizon scanning and by members. The network is accountable to North London Partners' Programme Delivery Board.

Shared values

The network was founded on a set of shared values which were developed by attendees at our first meeting. These will continue to evolve over time.

Supportive environment

Network events are an opportunity to be open and honest about how we use QI - to share what hasn't worked as well as what has. Members may have different levels of familiarity and experience with QI but all are welcome to share improvement challenges and benefit from the expertise of their peers.

Collaborative approach

Our aim is to build trust and increase collaboration on improvement work across hierarchies, organisations and care settings. We will make connections around shared interests and opportunities. Our events include time and space for this to happen. Network members are connectors for sharing and spreading best practice back in the organisations they work for.

Sharing of information and learning

All members contribute to sharing best practice, ideas and solutions to common challenges. We contribute case studies, resources and opportunities so the wider community can benefit from this knowledge. Network meetings have dedicated time for sharing and discussing learning on improvement topics, and make use of technology (e.g. Life QI) to continue discussion outside of events.

Quality and evidence-based practice

The network exists to define and improve quality of care for our local population. We champion use of QI methodology and evidence-based practice to demonstrate the value of the changes we make. Through this we will create a standardised approach to improvement across NCL, so that that QI projects can be shared, scaled-up and spread across the health and care system.

For more information about the QI network please contact adam.backhouse@nhs.net