Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

Water Safety & Usage Group
Minutes of meeting on Tuesday 26th September 2023
Via MS Teams

Attendees:

Dr Ciaran O'Gorman (CoG)	Consultant Medical Microbiologist	RGH
George McCracken (GMcC)	Head of Estates Risk & Environment	MPH
Alan Metcalfe (AM)	Co-Director Estate Services	MPH
Joanna Dougherty (JD)	Estates Divisional Risk Manager	MPH
[redacted]		
Alex Whittley (AW)	Estates Risk	MPH
Ingrid Traynor (IT)	Physiotherapy Services	MPH
[redacted]		
Janeen McKeown (JMcK)	Infection Prevention and Control Team	RGH
[redacted]		
Kevin Lewis (KL)	Infection Prevention and Control Team	RGH

Apologies:

Norah Noel (NN)	Dental Services	RGH
Siobhan Higginson (SH)	Estates Operations	RGH
Deirdre Winters (DW)	Physiotherapy Services	MIH
[redacted]	[redacted]	
Maureen Edwards (ME)	Director of Finance, Estates & Capital Development	RGH
Nigel Keery (NK)	Head of Estates Operations	MPH
James Inglis (JI)	Capital Development	RGH
[redacted]		
Megan Hamilton (MH)	Estates Decontamination Team	MPH

In Attendance:

[redacted]

Minutes circulated to all attendees and those who were not present, as well as:
[redacted]

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

Meeting attendance table

Group members	Present at meeting held 26/09/23					
Maureen Edwards (**RP**)	X					
George McCracken (**RP**)	✓					
Brenda Creaney (**RP**)	X					
Dr Ciaran O'Gorman **(RP)**	✓					
Alan Metcalfe	✓					
Joanna Dougherty	✓					
Alex Whittley	✓					
[redacted]	✓[redacted]					
Janeen McKeown	✓ KL					
[redacted]	[redacted]					
Deirdre Winters/Ingrid Traynor	✓IT					
[redacted]						
[redacted]	[redacted]					
Megan Hamilton/Samuel Hosick	X					
[redacted]	[redacted]					
Nigel Keery (NK)	X					
Norah Noel (NN)	X					
James Inglis (JI)	X					

RP – Responsible Person

Item		Action
1.0 1.1	**Apologies** As noted above.	 **NOTE**
2.0	**Previous Minutes** All agreed – no amendments.	 **NOTE**
3.0	**Matters arising from previous meeting** No matters arising	**NOTE**
4.0	**Service Group/Sub-group Reports - Reporting period 1st May to 31st August 2023**	
4.1	**Estates** [redacted] presented the Estates report, outlining all sampling that took place as per Estates procedural arrangements. Attention is drawn to the summary information on page 3 (point 2). Points of note are as follows; 1. Works have commenced to replace the soil stacks in BCH Tower Block South side. In addition, works are continuing to monitor and address any legionella positives as they occur following reinstatement of the programmed flushing regime in the BCH Tower Block North side. 2. The Trust needs to be cognizant of the number of unoccupied areas and under-used outlets across the entire Trust estate. Any service group aware of areas unoccupied should inform the Estates Risk Team. 3. Estates Operations team on RGH site continue to work on improving the domestic hot and cold-water infrastructure in RBHSC with the next phase of works due to commence soon. Legionella sample results to date have been encouraging. Update on progress to be provided at the next meeting. 4. A project to replace existing sterispray UV taps and showers with self-flushing outlets is underway. To date UV outlets in 10 North, Mater ICU, Cardiac ICU including the annex, RVH have been replaced. The next phase of the works are currently being planned in Level 3 HDU, RVH. Update on progress to be provided at the next meeting. 5. A survey to review outlets in the Immunology Day Ward in Elliot Dynes has been completed and quotations are pending. The aim is to remove redundant wash hand basins and upgrade outlets to self-flushing taps within bays to improve water movement throughout the ward. An update on progress will be provided at the next meeting. 6. A survey to review outlets in RABIU, MPH has commenced. The aim is to remove redundant wash hand	**NOTE** **ALL** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

	basins to improve water movement and quality throughout the ward. An update on progress will be provided at the next meeting. 7. A project to replace existing clinical wash hand basins and IPS panels with agreed new Corian design is ongoing across the Trust. To date, 237 outlets have been changed. An update on progress will be provided at the next meeting. 8. A project is ongoing to upgrade the wash hand basins in Withers ward at Musgrave Park Hospital and install Monochloramine as a secondary water treatment. Estates Operations Team are also installing a mains water by-pass and removing one of the CWST as part of the works. An update on progress will be provided at the next meeting. 9. A review of water treatment facilities at Musgrave Park Hospital, Elliot Dynes and the existing RBHSC along with BCH Tower Block is currently underway along with a review of the existing water sampling results. Consideration is being given to the installation of Monochloramine as a water treatment solution following the successful results identified at NICC. An update on progress will be provided at the next meeting. 10. The Estates Risk Team have recently provided information and training sessions to the staff in NICU covering the topic of water safety and usage of outlets on the ward. Feedback from the training has been positive, with additional sessions now being organised for Junior Doctors. **11. For discussion; (See AOB)** **a. Following recent pseudomonas sampling in CCB levels 4, 5 and 6 it was noted that there has been a change of use within the relative's accommodation on level 4. Clarification is required as to which service group is using these rooms and whether they are to remain on the sampling schedule.** **b. RGH, Level 3 HDU continues to be included within the quarterly sampling for CSICU. This area is now in use by the Renal team to provide Haemodialysis which is a level 2 augmented care location. Can this area be excluded from regular Pseudomonas testing.**	[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] **AW**

4.2	**Augmented Care Group** [redacted] provided an update from the Augmented Care Group meeting. Points of note are as follows; 1. Several service areas reported remedial works have been carried out due to detection of legionella/ pseudomonas from outlets (Clarke Clinic, CHU, PICU, 10N, Adult Critical care RVH). More extensive remedial actions are required in 6N due to persistent positive results. 2. NICU: outbreak of Klebsiella now formally closed. Possibility of having a 'waterless' NICU is being scoped. A pilot, involving a reduction in available CWHBs, is planned to take place in the current neonatal HDU area. 3. BCH 10N: BHSCT outbreak of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* now formally closed, however national incident ongoing. 4. Augmented Care Units were reminded to include PCSS representative in the review process for augmented care risk assessments.	**NOTE** [redacted] **IPCT** **NOTE** **NOTE**
4.3	**Renal Services** [redacted] provided an update and report for Renal services. The main points are as follows; 1. Microbiological testing on all central water plant units (CWPs) across the Trust returned 112 samples with 3 failures. All re-tests returned within acceptable limits. 2. Chemical/trace metal analysis testing on all CWPs returned with acceptable limits. 3. All 21 portable WROs were tested during this period with 96 samples returning 6 failures. Corrective action was taken and all re-tests returned within acceptable limits. 4. The total chlorine in the raw water supplies to the Trust dialysis areas during the reporting period was on average approx. 0.4 ppm. 5. Currently all pre-treatment water plants in the Trust are working well with no issues to report. 6. Currently Estates and the Renal Technical Department are having discussions about using Monochloramine and its implications for Nephrology, when used for disinfecting the water supply to the hospital wards. Update on progress to be provided at the next meeting.	**NOTE** [redacted]

4.4	**Physiotherapy** Ingrid Traynor provided an update as follows; 1. During this reporting period, chemical testing of the pool water returned 13 results outside of the normal limits. 2. There were no reported incidents of microbiological testing outside of the control limits during this reporting period.	**NOTE**
4.5	**Decontamination Services** [redacted] reported for Decontamination, main points are as follows; 1. During investigatory works in relation to a leak in the new RO tank at MPH CDU, the contractor was responsible for some further damage to the over temperature stat. The repair for this was successfully progressed across 1/2 June 2023. 2 days partial contingency arrangements were required at RVH CDU. The works were followed up with thermal sanitisations and water sampling. Water results were confirmed as acceptable, in line with HTM 01-01 standard. 2. Works were completed to replace the Reverse Osmosis heat exchanger at BCH EDU across 1st – 4th September. The works were followed up with thermal sanitisations and water sampling. 3. The project to install 6 x new endoscope washer-disinfectors and a new reverse osmosis plant in CCB EDU is still ongoing and all work is diverted to BCH EDU. The unit is expected to re-open in October 2023.	**NOTE**
4.6	**PCSS** [redacted] provided an update for PCSS and provided a report. The main points are as follows; 1. Regular, consistent cleaning is carried out in line with well-established work schedules to ensure that Support Services are compliant with cleaning standards and flushing protocols. 2. Cleaning standards continue to be monitored through audit, supervisors observational monitoring and verification of cleaning practices. These processes are all documented and available for inspection. 3. Staff who work in the Augmented Care locations in all areas across the Trust have received induction training, which demonstrates the correct cleaning techniques in line with the agreed cleaning protocols in relation to flushing, sink cleaning, shower cleaning, baths, sluice sinks, sluice hoppers and ice machines. Training records are kept locally and are available for inspection.	**NOTE**

	4. Flushing records are documented and available for inspection in Augmented Care Units Trust wide. 5. Declutter program to take place from 9th to 13th October 2023 in the Acute Hospitals followed by a chlorine clean of very high and high risk areas from 16th to 20th October 2023. Posters have been shared with Karen Devenney and to be circulated to all areas.	
5.0 **5.1**	**Independent Review** Post meeting update as follows; 1. An updated training course has been developed and delivered to IPC and Medical Microbiologists, updating on emerging pathogens and updated thinking on the prevention of waterborne infections. This was given on two dates in September, feedback was positive. 2. Work is ongoing with the Estates Risk team to identify gaps in the current design guide and what is needed to protect patients. An update on progress is to be provided at the next meeting. 3. Analysis of the pseudomonas aeruginosa sampling data is being prepared for publication in collaboration with GMcC and assistance from [redacted] An update on progress is to be provided at the next meeting. 4. [redacted] is a member of the NHSE NHP water safety group, which is part of a task group looking at improving the design of water and drainage systems. 5. [redacted] is also currently chairing a group producing a technical bulleting to update HTM 04 01 in response to the coroner's findings resulting from the Papworth outbreak of M.abscessus with 2 deaths and multiple cases in lung transplant units. This guidance will have implications for the design, governance and oversight of new builds intended for high risk patients and will be published early next year. 6. The business case for a new British Standard BS 7592-2 for Pseudomonas aeruginosa sampling has just been approved, which [redacted] will chair, and AW will be participating in representing DH NI. An update on progress is to be provided at the next meeting.	**NOTE** **[redacted]/JD/ GMcC** [redacted] **NOTE** [redacted]
6.0 **6.1**	**Legislation/Guidance Changes** *Nothing to report.*	
7.0 **7.1**	**Training** *As above in 5.1.1.*	
8.0 **8.1**	**Changes to Service Group Procedural and/or Structural Arrangements** Nothing to report	

9.0 **9.1**	**Standing Items** The terms of reference were agreed on 22nd September 2022.	**NOTE**
10.0	**Any other business**	
10.1	**Water Coolers** – JD made contact with PaLs and was provided with a list of water coolers purchased for various departments throughout the Trust. None of these coolers appeared to have been purchased for Augmented Care Areas. JD to contact PaLs and explain the decision from the group that no water coolers should be ordered that have not been approved by Estates Risk Team.	**JD**
10.2	**Elliot Dynes future use** – Contact to be made with Immunology Day Centre service lead to establish if this area should be designated as a Level 2 Augmented Care Area. Estates Risk Team have already commenced the process of upgrading works to the water outlets in this area.	**[redacted]/IPCT**
10.3	**Critical Care ICU Level 4 accommodation rooms –** [redacted] enquired if the accommodation rooms should continue to be considered part of the ICU pseudomonas sampling schedule. CoG recommended that Estates Risk Team make contact with the Service Lead to establish which staff are using these rooms and if there is a risk of cross-contamination with the ICU on levels 5&6.	**AW**
10.4	**Capital Projects Update** JI was not in attendance at the meeting, no update was provided.	**NOTE**
11.0	**Date of next meeting** The next meeting will take place on 30th January 2024, 2pm via MS Teams.	**NOTE**