

The Scottish Quality and Safety Fellowship Programme

The Scottish Quality and Safety Fellowship Programme (SQS Fellowship) is a lead level quality improvement and clinical leadership course managed by NHS Education (NES), working in partnership with Healthcare Improvement Scotland and NHSScotland. The SQS Fellowship aims to develop and strengthen clinical leadership and improvement capability and is aligned to a level 3 QI qualification in keeping with the NI Attributes Framework and Key Principles document.

Since 2009 the then HSC Safety Forum (2007 – 2019) and now HSCQI Hub (April 2019 – present), funded, either in total or in part, the attendance of Northern Ireland participants on this fellowship programme. As organisations recognised the value this programme added to staff some Trusts/organisations opted to fully fund places if their staff were successful at interview and additional places were available. To date there has been a total of 48 participants complete the fellowship. A breakdown of participants and funding source is attached as Appendix 1

SQS Fellowship Content

The SQS Fellowship is aimed at healthcare staff who currently undertake clinical practice and have a direct influence on improving the delivery of safe patient care, as well as staff in clinical professions (e.g. medical, nursing, pharmacy, AHP, healthcare scientists, ambulance) who do not currently deliver hands-on care but do have a role in improving patient care or safety.

The main objectives of the programme are to develop clinical leaders capable of improving the Quality and Safety of health and healthcare and to enhance knowledge of the science and methods for improvement amongst clinicians who have enthusiasm, experience and skills to:

- support the development of safety programmes
- spread improvements both within their organisation and nationally
- establish a learning support network for transformational leadership for quality improvement
- complement wider improvement capacity building programmes
- strengthen cooperation and collaboration with important overseas healthcare providers

Participants are expected to undertake their own improvement project throughout the duration of the programme to consolidate their learning and apply skills from learning workshops and events into practice.

There is the expectation that Fellows will be involved in supporting the Healthcare Quality Strategy at local and regional level after completing the Fellowship

programme. This may include mentoring, technical advice, teaching and other quality improvement activities.

Examples of activities undertaken by previous SQS Fellows

Previous Fellows have supported QI work in NI in a range of roles both locally in Trusts and in a regional capacity for example

- Chair of Maternity Collaborative
- Chair Maternity Collaborative
- Lead Nurse Quality and Safety PHA
- Chair Paediatric Collaborative
- Lead Belfast Trust
- Director HSCQI
- Lead on STEP programme
- QI Lead Western Trust
- QI Lead Western Trust
- ScIL faculty Belfast Trust
- Clinical Director HSCQI