Quality Improvement ToolkitTool 5: Communications plan and actions

Project Name:							
Project Lead:							
? Who is the intended audience or audiences? (Stakeholder Map - Tool No 2) Ref: Stakeholders Listing	? Why are you issuing this communication - is the objective to: • Ask? • Educate? • Influence? • Orientate? • Update and inform?	? What is the key message? Reasons for the project Aim of the project Benefits of project and for whom Changes to expect during the project Impact on services or people Timeline for the project One page 'hymn sheet' for reference	? How do you intend to communicate the message to best suit intended audiences? Bear in mind these methods: Person to person Electronic and digital Printed materials	? When is the best time to communicate the message? How frequently? • Timing is key • Planning is vital		? Where to access the right information for the right audiences at the right time. Remember to include a name and contact details at the end of each communication.	
1. Activity/Action	ns for: Project Title				Action by whom	Target Date	Status Complete
Who							
Why							
What							
How							
When							
Where							

Tool 5: Communications plan and actions

2. Tips for stakeholder mapping

- **? Who** is the intended audience or audiences? (See Stakeholder Map Tool No 4)
- ? Have messages been tailored to suit different audiences?

Messaging about change will have a different focus for different people such as:

- People who provide services,
- Heads of departments and management,
- Service user and families,
- All Staff (includes contractors, volunteers, students), and
- External stakeholders.
- ? Have you put yourself in the place of your target audiences? They may be unfamiliar (to varying degrees) with the information, terminology and context of your project.
- ? Is it clear at first glance who the information is relevant to? For example:
- Patient information
- Visitor guidelines
- Staff memo
- Family support
- ? Have messages about this project been drafted using plain language, relevant imaging and accessible formatting to ensure the information is meaningful to your target audience? See the HSE Communicating Clearly Guidelines for guidance.

? Why are you issuing this communication? Is the objective to: ask, educate, influence, orientate or update and inform?

Ask

Seek service-user and stake-holder feedback or call to action

Educate

Educate staff, patients, and other stakeholders about our current services, or new developments such as a QI project.

Educate funders, potential staff, health care professionals and the general public about the work of the services and new developments

Influence

Bring about behavioural change (smoke free campus, reduce 'do not attends')

Use feedback, data or survey reports to influence organisational decision making processes.

Orientate

General familiarisation by providing information, frequently asked questions (FAQs).

Update and inform

Provide general news, updates or information on services, projects, achievements or events.

- ? What is the key message?
- What are the reasons for carrying out the project or change and, if relevant, what is the proposed solution or action?
- What is the project aim and desired outcome?
- What are the benefits to be gained by patients, staff or other stake-holders as relevant?
- What will the changes involve and who may be affected during the change process?
- What is the timeline for the project?

Messaging should be consistent.

Based on the above, you may wish to create a one-pager for reference and update this as necessary

? Is your message

- Accurate (have facts and figures been validated)?
- Brief (edit out unnecessary detail)?
- Clear (ask some staff members or patients who are not involved in the project if the messaging is clear and meaningful)?

? How do you intend to communicate the message to best suit intended audiences?

Carefully consider which communications methods are likely to be the most effective way to deliver your message?

Bear in mind the following methods:

Person to person

Staff members or volunteers may wish to speak directly with service users, staff meetings and handovers, daily operational safety huddle.

Electronic and digital website

Electronic notice boards for visitor information or social media for example twitter.

Printed materials

Such as memo to staff, letter to patients, leaflets, notices, frequently asked questions (FAQs), signage or posters on notice boards.

? When is the best time to communicate the message?

Timing is key and planning is vital.

Some examples below:

Daily

- Meetings, staff handovers
- Daily operational safety huddle
- Patient treatment sessions
- E-mails

Weekly

Staff Meetings

Monthly

- Staff Briefings
- Monthly Calendar
- Patient Forum
- Board

Ad Hoc

- Key events as appropriate
- Posters, flyers

Cascade

- Major project updates
- News

Annual Report

Ongoing

- Meeting minutes, agendas
- Emergency situations
- Published materials such as newsletter, posters, leaflets, booklets
- Website

