**Solent’s Primary Care Programme: Review and Alignment of Adult Services and Primary Care Networks in Southampton**

**Article 8 - Spotlight on SBAR**

You are probably already familiar with SBAR (Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation), a structured communication tool split into four sections to support with the handover of relevant information quickly. The tool was first developed by the USA Military in the 1940s when communicating on nuclear submarines and was introduced in the NHS over 20 years ago to assist in the communication between healthcare professionals for patients needing urgent attention.

SBAR has been used within Solent NHS Trust for many years, however, this has always been in the format of a paper document, and its use has been sporadic and with varying effectiveness. The Trust understands the value in this tool when used effectively, and as such, has developed training for staff to enable them to use the tool effectively. To date, all our Community Nursing and CIS teams have been given training, and our trainees ACPs are offering training on an ad hoc basis to new staff or those not present at the team training sessions.

***When is SBAR being used within Solent?***

SBAR is being used in several ways, such as:

* During our Complex Care MDT meetings: We have recently developed a new template to record these meetings using the SBAR format. This means that staff can easily see the journey, discussion and action plan for patients at a glance (more information on this was featured in article 6).
* During our Quality and Safety meetings (patient handover). In fact, we have recently noticed that several of our new, junior staff are already using SBAR because they’ve used it in hospital during their training, for example when handing over to doctors. As a result, other, more experienced staff are now watching and learning from the new, junior staff, which is great to see.
* We are trying to use SBAR more during telephone conversations and in emails to healthcare professionals and GPs. We are still learning, so please bear with us!
* We are in the process of piloting a new integrated referral form for community nursing and CIS, which uses SBAR.

***What is the feedback from Primary Care?***

SBAR is also being used by the One Team MDT meetings, which happen across the city. Southampton GP Principals Dr Pritti Aggarwal and Dr Sara Sealey from Living Well Partnership had the following to say about SBAR:

*“Through Solent supporting the One Team initiative across the city, there has been the opportunity to promote and share some of the learnings from the Complex Care MDTs. The SBAR tool is a great communication tool that is simple and effective. It has been adopted by the Living Well Partnership PCN One Team, resulting in focussed and relevant pre-MDT fact finding, by both clinicians and care co-ordinators. This has enabled the meetings to be more succinct, with improved and concise case presentations, and the ask of each healthcare professional is really clear. It saves time before and during the One Team MDTs.”*

***Where can you go for more information?***

We are in the process of adapting our training package to be able to be used by other healthcare professionals, including Primary Care. We are currently looking at what we can include in our training toolkit to help support our teams both here at Solent and further afield. If you have any ideas, we’d love to hear from you.

Please reach out if you’d like more information about this work, or the Solent Primary Care Review Programme by emailing sara.a’court@nhs.net or christine.horan@solent.nhs.uk.

Also, just to remind you that we have recently created a ‘snapshot directory’ of Solent’s adult Southampton services. You can access this document using the following link: <https://www.solent.nhs.uk/media/5531/snapshot-directory-ads-final-april-2024.xlsx>. This link is hosted on Solent’s website, we will share an updated link once the new Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust website goes live in July. The Snapshot Directory is also only envisaged as a short term solution; the long term solution being that we have a revised website (being developed as part of the new Trust) which is easy to navigate with up to date contact details.