rotas. With increased responsibility and training, imaging staff lead VCs. They also call patients before their appointment to ask and answer questions and explain requirements.

Staff survey results now show significant improvement in all stress categories. Patient responses (n=255), also show significantly favourable results with patients indicating an overall good or excellent experience with the service (96%).

The switch to a 12-hour day and compressed workweek can be a risk. Fortunately, in our department, it has been beneficial. This improvement is likely due to certain factors, such as task diversification, the autonomy that staff experience in leading VCs, and extended roles. Smaller work teams provide quick and better contact with managers, improvement in teamwork and opportunity for better relationships. Finally, patient phone calls reduce patient anxiety and improve communication, and reduced staff stress undoubtedly impacts quality of patient care.

Junior doctor support during COVID-19

THE PIVOTAL ROLE OF A CHIEF REGISTRAR IN SUPPORTING JUNIOR DOCTORS DURING COVID-19

Caroline E Evans*, Kate Hyde. Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust, Exeter, Devon, UK

Morale within the NHS was low before COVID-19 caused confusion, fear and loss of direction. Morale became more important to ensure the ability to navigate this difficult challenge. My role as Chief Registrar was to link executive and junior medical teams. The key to my strategy was early and continued stakeholder engagement.

We identified the ability to communicate with junior medical staff as a weakness. The Trust did not have a list of all junior doctors, or a way to communicate with them. I set up a ‘WhatsApp’ group for all junior medical staff and through this, organised daily video conferences led by a member of the senior clinical team. These conferences included updates on hospital status and guidelines which were then summarised into a text update for those unable to attend. This flexible approach was devised and implemented within a week.

The working environment plays a pivotal role and well-being is impacted by access to food and rest. We arranged free food and access to the Doctors Mess, free parking, shower facilities and a ‘wobble room’, where people could go if they felt overwhelmed. We coordinated strategies alongside the Trust wellbeing team and recruited a GP with psychiatry experience to be available for telephone consultations daily.

We used online surveys to assess the impact of our intervention collecting both quantitative and qualitative data. Over 80% of junior doctors felt supported during the pandemic and reported a reduction in anxiety.

Change can happen effectively even during a crisis within a complex system. The morale of the medical workforce has a direct impact on patient safety and the quality of care delivered. The Chief Registrar role has enabled me to lead from within, which is an effective way to implement change by being an authentic voice from within an organisation.

Integrated child health services and Covid-19

LEADING INTEGRATED CHILD HEALTH THROUGH COVID-19: RESPONDING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES, FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Arpana Soni, Mando Watson, Phoebe Rutherford. Connecting Care for Children, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, London UK

Context Connecting Care for Children (CC4C) is a leading partnership organisation, that works alongside local providers of child health and with local communities, to support the delivery of integrated child health services.

CC4C’s model of care puts the General Practitioner (GP) at the centre. Joint clinics with GPs and Paediatricians, and multidisciplinary team (MDT) meetings are hosted by primary care centres across central NW London.

The Issue Organisational changes instituted at the start of Covid-19, messaged to CYP and families not to attend primary care centres and Accident and Emergency.

The challenge for health professionals was accessing those with health needs and delivering joined-up care without the facility of face-to-face clinics and MDT meetings.

Assessment of the Issue

Through established community networks, CC4C listened and heard that local primary care teams and communities were in need of child health leadership.

Primary care physicians requested paediatric support to manage cases within the new healthcare landscape. Carers, struggling with uncertainty, loss of control and access to services, requested health information from trusted sources.

Intervention Joint clinics and MDTs swiftly moved to virtual platforms. Simple clinical guides to support management of acutely unwell CYP were created and shared through primary care channels. Bundles of information were co-designed and shared with local carers.

CC4C co-hosted child health GP webinars and collaborated with local community groups to organise parent/carer webinars.

Impact GPs reported increased confidence with patient management, and heard that local primary care teams and communities responded with local carers.

CC4C co-hosted child health GP webinars and collaborated with local community groups to organise parent/carer webinars.

Leading across systems and organisations

ONE YEAR ON, CROYDON QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME: A REVIEW OF AN INTEGRATED TRUST QI PROGRAMME, TO DRIVE AND SUSTAIN QI ACROSS CROYDON HEALTH AND CARE SYSTEMS

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Background CQI is uniquely placed within a vertically integrated health and care alliance; the One Croydon alliance-