

Dr M J Neville & Dr I G Waldin (Known as Gainford Surgery)

Inspection report

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Date of inspection visit: 28 June 2018 Date of publication: 28/08/2018

This report describes our judgement of the quality of care at this service. It is based on a combination of what we found when we inspected, information from our ongoing monitoring of data about services and information given to us from the provider, patients, the public and other organisations.

Ratings

Overall rating for this location	Good	
Are services safe?	Good	
Are services effective?	Good	
Are services caring?	Outstanding	\triangle
Are services responsive?	Good	
Are services well-led?	Good	

Overall summary

This practice is rated as Good overall. (Previous

inspection October 2015 - Good)

The key questions are rated as:

Are services safe? - Good

Are services effective? - Good

Are services caring? - Outstanding

Are services responsive? - Good

Are services well-led? - Good

We carried out an announced comprehensive inspection at Dr M J Neville & Dr I G Waldin

on 28 June 2018 as part of our inspection programme.

At this inspection we found:

- The practice had systems to keep patients safe and safeguarded from abuse.
- The practice had clear systems to manage risk so that safety incidents were less likely to happen. When incidents did happen, the practice learned from them and improved their processes.
- Staff involved and treated patients with compassion, kindness, dignity and respect.

- Results from the National GP Patient Survey rated the practice higher than others for all aspects of care. The practice was in the top 1.43% of practices nationally to score highly in the survey.
- The practice scored higher than the local clinical commissioning group (CCG) average in every question in the National GP Patient Survey.
- Feedback from patients was consistently and strongly positive.
- The practice organised and delivered services to meet patients' needs. They took account of patient needs and preferences.
- Access to appointments was good.
- There was a focus on continuous learning and improvement at all levels of the organisation. The practice proactively used performance information to drive improvement.

The areas where the provider **should** make improvements are:

- Review processes around the undertaking and recording of annual medicines review.
- Adhere to their medicines policy in relation to the stock-checking of Controlled Drugs.

Professor Steve Field CBE FRCP FFPH FRCGP Chief Inspector of General Practice

Population group ratings

Older people	Good
People with long-term conditions	Good
Families, children and young people	Good
Working age people (including those recently retired and students)	Good
People whose circumstances may make them vulnerable	Good
People experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia)	Good

Our inspection team

Our inspection team was led by a CQC lead inspector. The team included a GP specialist adviser and a member of the CQC medicines team.

Background to Dr M J Neville & Dr I G Waldin

Dr M J Neville & Dr I G Waldin are registered with the Care Quality Commission to provide primary care services. The practice provides services to around 3,400 patients from one location; Main Road, Gainford, Darlington, Co Durham, DL2 3BE, we visited this location as part of this inspection.

The practice, which is known as Gainford Surgery, is located in purpose built premises which is all on the ground floor. There is a dedicated car park with disabled parking bays and step free access. The practice was able to offer dispensing services to those patients on the practice list who lived more than one mile (1.6km) from their nearest pharmacy.

The practice has two male GP partners and one female salaried GP, whole time equivalent (WTE) 2. At the time of the inspection the salaried GP was on maternity leave and a long-term locum GP was covering. The is one full-time practice nurse. There is a full-time practice and an assistant practice manager. There are four administration staff and two dispensers.

The practice opening times are 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday apart from a Wednesday when the practice closes at 1pm. Appointments are available on Monday and

Wednesday from 8am to 10am, and on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8.30am to 10.30am. Afternoons other than Wednesday appointments are available from 2pm to 5.40pm.

The practice provides late evening, weekend and bank holiday appointments; they are part of the local GP federation of GP practices who work together to provide appointments with GPs, nurses or health care assistants outside of their normal working hours. Patients can contact the practice reception team to arrange appointments. When this service is not provided patients requiring urgent medical care can contact the out-of-hours provided by the NHS 111 service.

The practice is part of NHS Durham Dales and Sedgefield clinical commission group (CCG). The practice provides services based on a General Medical Services (GMS) contract agreement for general practice.

Information from Public Health England places the area in which the practice is located in the ninth most deprived decile, where one is the most deprived. In general, people living in more deprived areas tend to have greater need for health services. Average male life expectancy at the practice is 80 years which is higher than the national average of 79. Average female life expectancy at the practice is 83 years which is the same as the national average.



Are services safe?

We rated the practice as good for providing safe services.

Safety systems and processes

The practice had clear systems to keep people safe and safeguarded from abuse.

- The practice had appropriate systems to safeguard children and vulnerable adults from abuse. All staff received up-to-date safeguarding and safety training appropriate to their role. They knew how to identify and report concerns. Reports and learning from safeguarding incidents were available to staff.
- Staff who acted as chaperones were trained for their role and had received a DBS check. (DBS checks identify whether a person has a criminal record or is on an official list of people barred from working in roles where they may have contact with children or adults who may be vulnerable.)
- Staff took steps, including working with other agencies, to protect patients from abuse, neglect, harassment, discrimination and breaches of their dignity and respect.
- The practice carried out appropriate staff checks at the time of recruitment and on an ongoing basis.
- There were systems in place to manage infection prevention and control.
- The practice had arrangements to ensure that facilities and equipment were safe and in good working order.
- Arrangements for managing waste and clinical specimens kept people safe.

Risks to patients

There were adequate systems to assess, monitor and manage risks to patient safety.

- Arrangements were in place for planning and monitoring the number and mix of staff needed to meet patients' needs, including planning for holidays, sickness, busy periods and epidemics.
- There was an effective induction system for temporary staff tailored to their role.
- The practice was equipped to deal with medical emergencies and staff were suitably trained in emergency procedures.

- Staff understood their responsibilities to manage emergencies on the premises and to recognise those in need of urgent medical attention. Clinicians knew how to identify and manage patients with severe infections including sepsis.
- When there were changes to services or staff the practice assessed and monitored the impact on safety.

Information to deliver safe care and treatment

Staff had the information they needed to deliver safe care and treatment to patients.

- The care records we saw showed that information needed to deliver safe care and treatment was available to staff. There was a documented approach to managing test results.
- The practice had systems for sharing information with staff and other agencies to enable them to deliver safe care and treatment.
- Clinicians made timely referrals in line with protocols.

Appropriate and safe use of medicines

The practice had reliable systems for appropriate and safe handling of medicines.

- The systems for managing and storing medicines including vaccines, medical gases, emergency medicines and equipment, minimised risks.
- Staff prescribed, administered or supplied medicines to patients and gave advice on medicines in line with current national guidance. The practice had reviewed its antibiotic prescribing and taken action to support good antimicrobial stewardship in line with local and national guidance.
- The practice managed controlled drugs safely and securely, however, they did not always follow their policy in relation to carrying out stock checks.

Patients' health was monitored to ensure medicines were being used safely and followed up on appropriately however not all patients had received an annual review of their medication.

 We looked at five patient records in relation to their annual medicines review, in four of these patients there was no evidence that a full medication review had been undertaken or recorded. Post-inspection, the provider



Are services safe?

explained that the reviews had taken place but had been recorded incorrectly, however, the information provided did not satisfy our concerns that a medicine review had not taken place.

• Arrangements for dispensing medicines at the practice kept patients safe.

Track record on safety

The practice had had a good track record on safety.

- There were comprehensive risk assessments in relation to safety issues.
- The practice monitored and reviewed activity. This
 helped them to understand risks and gave a clear,
 accurate and current picture of safety that led to safety
 improvements.

Lessons learned and improvements made

The practice learned and made improvements when things went wrong.

- Staff understood their duty to raise concerns and report incidents and near misses. Leaders and managers supported them when they did so.
- There were adequate systems for reviewing and investigating when things went wrong. The practice learned and shared lessons, identified themes and took action to improve safety in the practice.
- The practice acted on and learned from external safety events as well as patient and medicine safety alerts.



Are services effective?

We rated the practice and all of the population groups as good for providing effective services overall.

(Please note: Any Quality Outcomes (QOF) data relates to 2016/17. QOF is a system intended to improve the quality of general practice and reward good practice.)

Effective needs assessment, care and treatment

The practice had systems to keep clinicians up to date with current evidence-based practice. We saw that clinicians assessed needs and delivered care and treatment in line with current legislation, standards and guidance supported by clear clinical pathways and protocols.

- Patients' immediate and ongoing needs were fully assessed. This included their clinical needs and their mental and physical wellbeing.
- We saw no evidence of discrimination when clinicians made decisions about patients' care and treatment.
- Staff used appropriate tools to assess the level of pain in patients.
- Staff advised patients what to do if their condition got worse and where to seek further help and support.

Older people:

- Older patients who are frail or may be vulnerable received a full assessment of their physical, mental and social needs. Opportunist pulse checks are carried out for patients over the age of 65. Patients aged over 75 were invited for a health check
- There was a vulnerable adults wrap around service (VAWAS) provided by the clinical commissioning group (CCG). This was provided by a nurse practitioner who visited the practice daily and would visit patients, mostly frail and elderly and those in care homes, who the practice felt required extra support.
- Staff had appropriate knowledge of treating older people including their psychological, mental and communication needs.

People with long-term conditions:

- Patients with long-term conditions had a structured annual review to check their health and medicines needs were being met. For patients with the most complex needs, the GP worked with other health and care professionals to deliver a coordinated package of care.
- Staff who were responsible for reviews of patients with long-term conditions had received specific training.

- The practice had recently introduced new management plans for diabetes care. Patients who were eligible for the plans were referred to the practice nurse and were part of the 'living well, taking control patient journey'.
- The practice was able to demonstrate how they identified patients with commonly undiagnosed conditions, for example diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), atrial fibrillation and hypertension.

Families, children and young people:

- Childhood immunisations were carried out in line with the national childhood vaccination programme. Uptake rates for the vaccines given were 100% which were above the target percentage of 90%.
- The practice had arrangements to identify and review the treatment of newly pregnant women on long-term medicines. These patients were provided with advice and post-natal support in accordance with best practice guidance.
- The practice had arrangements for following up failed attendance of children's appointments following an appointment in secondary care or for immunisation.

Working age people (including those recently retired and students):

- The practice's uptake for cervical screening was 81%, which was above the 80% coverage target for the national screening programme.
- The practice's uptake for breast and bowel cancer screening was in line the national average.
- The practice had systems to inform eligible patients to have the meningitis vaccine, for example before attending university for the first time.
- Patients had access to appropriate health assessments and checks including NHS checks for patients aged 40-74. There was appropriate follow-up on the outcome of health assessments and checks where abnormalities or risk factors were identified.

People whose circumstances make them vulnerable:

- End of life care was delivered in a coordinated way which took into account the needs of those whose circumstances may make them vulnerable.
- The practice held a register of patients living in vulnerable circumstances including homeless people, travellers and those with a learning disability.



Are services effective?

 The practice had a system for vaccinating patients with an underlying medical condition according to the recommended schedule.

People experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia):

- The practice assessed and monitored the physical health of people with mental illness, severe mental illness, and personality disorder by providing access to health checks, interventions for physical activity, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, cancer and access to 'stop smoking' services. There was a system for following up patients who failed to attend for the administration of long-term medication.
- When patients were assessed to be at risk of suicide or self-harm the practice had arrangements in place to help them to remain safe.
- 91% of patients diagnosed with dementia had their care reviewed in a face-to-face meeting in the previous 12 months. This was above the national average of 84%.
- 100% of patients diagnosed with schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder and other psychoses had a comprehensive, agreed care plan documented in the previous 12 months. This was above the national average of 90%.
- The practice specifically considered the physical health needs of patients with poor mental health and those living with dementia. For example, 100% of patients experiencing poor mental health had received discussion and advice about alcohol consumption. This was above the national average of 91%.
- Patients at risk of dementia were identified and offered an assessment to detect possible signs of dementia.
 When dementia was suspected there was an appropriate referral for diagnosis.
- The practice offered annual health checks to patients with a learning disability.

Monitoring care and treatment

The practice had a programme of quality improvement activity.

 The most recent published QOF results showed the practice's overall achievement was 100% which was above the local and national averages. Their use of exception reporting was low. The clinical exception rate was 5.5% compared to the CCG average of 9.8% and the national average of 10%.

- The practice used information about care and treatment to make improvements.
- The practice had carried out two cycle clinical audits to improve patient care. For example, one audit looked at patients diagnosed with asthma who had been prescribed more than 12 short-acting reliever inhalers in the previous 12 months. Because of the audit, patients were invited for an urgent review of their asthma control.
- The practice was small and family run. The patient turnover was low. There was a strong continuity of care.

Effective staffing

Staff had the skills, knowledge and experience to carry out their roles.

- Staff had appropriate knowledge for their role, for example, to carry out reviews for people with long-term conditions, older people and people requiring contraceptive reviews.
- Staff whose role included immunisation and taking samples for the cervical screening programme had received specific training and could demonstrate how they stayed up to date.
- The practice understood the learning needs of staff and provided protected time and training to meet them.
 Up-to-date records of skills, qualifications and training were maintained. Staff were encouraged and given opportunities to develop.
- The practice provided staff with ongoing support. This
 included an induction process, one-to-one meetings,
 appraisals, coaching and mentoring, clinical supervision
 and support for revalidation. The practice ensured the
 competence of staff employed in advanced roles by
 audit of their clinical decision-making, including
 non-medical prescribing.
- There was a clear approach for supporting and managing staff when their performance was poor or variable.
- Dispensary staff were appropriately qualified and their competence was assessed regularly. They could demonstrate how they kept up to date.

Coordinating care and treatment

Staff worked together and with other health and social care professionals to deliver effective care and treatment.



Are services effective?

- We saw records that showed that all appropriate staff, including those in different teams and organisations, were involved in assessing, planning and delivering care and treatment.
- The practice shared clear and accurate information with relevant professionals when deciding care delivery for people with long term conditions and when coordinating healthcare for care home residents. They shared information with, and liaised, with community services, social services and carers for housebound patients and with health visitors and community services for children who have relocated into the local area
- Patients received coordinated and person-centred care.
 This included when they moved between services, when they were referred, or after they were discharged from hospital. The practice worked with patients to develop personal care plans that were shared with relevant agencies.
- The practice ensured that end of life care was delivered in a coordinated way which took into account the needs of different patients, including those who may be vulnerable because of their circumstances.

Helping patients to live healthier lives

Staff were consistent and proactive in helping patients to live healthier lives.

- The practice identified patients who may be in need of extra support and directed them to relevant services.
 This included patients in the last 12 months of their lives, patients at risk of developing a long-term condition and carers.
- Staff encouraged and supported patients to be involved in monitoring and managing their own health, for example, through social prescribing schemes.
- Staff discussed changes to care or treatment with patients and their carers as necessary.
- The practice supported national priorities and initiatives to improve the population's health, for example, tackling obesity. The practice received an award for outstanding performance in 2015 for their stop smoking campaign. They offered clinics provided by their practice advisors.

Consent to care and treatment

The practice obtained consent to care and treatment in line with legislation and guidance.

- Clinicians understood the requirements of legislation and guidance when considering consent and decision making.
- Clinicians supported patients to make decisions. Where appropriate, they assessed and recorded a patient's mental capacity to make a decision.



Are services caring?

We rated the practice as outstanding for caring. Kindness, respect and compassion

Staff treated patients with kindness, respect and compassion.

- Feedback from the Care Quality Commission comment cards was wholly positive. Patients praised the practice for providing an excellent service. Words used to describe the practice were exceptional, high quality and supportive. Several patients reported that they were fortunate to live in the area served by the practice.
- The practice was in the top 1.43% of practices nationally to score highly in the National GP Survey. (They were ranked 110th out of 7,708 practices).
- The practice scored higher than the local clinical commissioning group (CCG) average in every question in the National GP Patient Survey. For example, respondents to the GP patient survey who stated that they would definitely, or probably, recommend their GP surgery to someone who had just moved to the local area, was 96.5% compared to the CCG average of 82.4% and the national average of 78.9%.
- Staff understood, valued and supported patients' personal, cultural, social and religious needs.
- The practice gave patients timely support and information.

Involvement in decisions about care and treatment

There is a strong visible person centred culture. Staff consistently empower people to have a voice and demonstrate they understand the importance of involving people in their care. They were aware of the Accessible Information Standard (a requirement to make sure that patients and their carers can access and understand the information that they are given.)

- Staff communicated with people in a way that they could understand, for example, communication aids and easy read materials were available.
- Staff helped patients and their carers find further information and access community and advocacy services. They helped them ask questions about their care and treatment.
- The practice proactively identified carers and supported them.

Privacy and dignity

Staff were highly motivated to offer kind, compassionate care that respected people's privacy and dignity.

- Reception staff knew that if patients wanted to discuss sensitive issues or appeared distressed they could offer them a private room to discuss their needs.
- Staff recognised the importance of people's dignity and respect. They challenged behaviour that fell short of this.



Are services responsive to people's needs?

We rated the practice, and all of the population groups, as good for providing responsive services.

Responding to and meeting people's needs

The practice organised and delivered services to meet patients' needs. They took account of patient needs and preferences.

- The practice understood the needs of its population and tailored services in response to those needs.
- Telephone GP consultations were available which supported patients who were unable to attend the practice during normal working hours.
- The facilities and premises were appropriate for the services delivered.
- There was a sexual health and family planning service.
- The practice made reasonable adjustments when patients found it hard to access services.
- The practice provided minor surgery which included the fitting of IUD (Intrauterine device).
- The practice provided effective care coordination for patients who are more vulnerable or who have complex needs. They supported them to access services both within and outside the practice. For example, there is an in-house practice counsellor.
- Care and treatment for patients with multiple long-term conditions and patients approaching the end of life was coordinated with other services.
- The practice provided dispensary services for people who needed additional support with their medicines, for example, a delivery service, weekly or monthly blister packs, large print labels.

Older people:

- All patients had a named GP who supported them in whatever setting they lived, whether it was at home or in a care home or supported living scheme.
- The practice was responsive to the needs of older patients, and offered home visits and same day appointments for those with enhanced needs. There were home visits for those who had difficulties getting to the practice.

People with long-term conditions:

 Patients with a long-term condition received an annual review to check their health and medicines needs were being appropriately met. Consultation times were flexible to meet each patient's specific needs. • The practice held regular meetings with the local district nursing team to discuss and manage the needs of patients with complex medical issues.

Families, children and young people:

- We found there were systems to identify and follow up children living in disadvantaged circumstances and who were at risk, for example, children and young people who had a high number of accident and emergency (A&E) attendances. Records we looked at confirmed this.
- All parents or guardians calling with concerns about a child under the age of 18 were offered a same day appointment when necessary.
- There is a baby check, health visitor and baby immunisation clinic on alternative Tuesday afternoons at the practice.

Working age people (including those recently retired and students):

 The needs of this population group had been identified and the practice had adjusted the services it offered to ensure these were accessible, flexible and offered continuity of care. Patients were always offered an appointment within two working days.

People whose circumstances make them vulnerable:

- The practice held a register of patients living in vulnerable circumstances including homeless people, travellers and those with a learning disability.
- People in vulnerable circumstances were easily able to register with the practice, including those with no fixed abode.
- The practice were able to refer patients to community and mental health specialists.

People experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia):

- Staff interviewed had a good understanding of how to support patients with mental health needs and those patients living with dementia.
- The practice held in house counselling. There was access to primary care mental health clinics where patients could be referred.

Timely access to care and treatment

Patients were able to access care and treatment from the practice within good timescales for their needs.



Are services responsive to people's needs?

- Patients had timely access to initial assessment, test results, diagnosis and treatment.
- Waiting times, delays and cancellations were minimal and managed appropriately.
- · Patients with the most urgent needs had their care and treatment prioritised.
- From the completed comment cards patients reported that it was easy to obtain an appointment.
- Staff told us that the appointments system was very good and usually patients could obtain an appointment within a day or two.
- The National GP Patient Survey data on appointments and getting through to the surgery on the telephone was much higher than the local CCG and national averages. For example, the number of patients asked how easy is it was to get through to someone at the surgery on the phone, who responded positively, was 99.3% compared to the local CCG average of 75.8% and national average of 70.9%.

Listening and learning from concerns and complaints

The practice took complaints and concerns seriously and responded to them appropriately to improve the quality of care.

- Information about how to make a complaint or raise concerns was available. Staff treated patients who made complaints compassionately.
- The complaint policy and procedures were in line with recognised guidance. The practice learned lessons from individual concerns and complaints and also from analysis of trends. It acted as a result to improve the quality of care.



Are services well-led?

We rated the practice and all of the population groups as good for providing a well-led service.

Leadership capacity and capability

Leaders had the capacity and skills to deliver high-quality, sustainable care.

- Leaders were knowledgeable about issues and priorities relating to the quality and future of services. They understood the challenges and were addressing them.
- Leaders at all levels were visible and approachable. They worked closely with staff and others to make sure they prioritised compassionate and inclusive leadership.
- The practice had effective processes to develop leadership capacity and skills, including planning for the future leadership of the practice.

Vision and strategy

The practice had a clear vision and credible strategy to deliver high quality, sustainable care.

- There was a clear vision and set of values. The practice had a realistic strategy achieve priorities. The practice developed its vision, values and strategy jointly with patients, staff and external partners.
- Staff were aware of and understood the vision, values and strategy and their role in achieving them.
- The strategy was in line with health and social priorities across the region. The practice planned its services to meet the needs of the practice population.
- The practice monitored progress against delivery of the strategy.

Culture

The practice had a culture of high-quality sustainable care.

- Staff stated they felt respected, supported and valued. They were proud to work in the practice.
- The practice focused on the needs of patients.
- Leaders and managers acted on behaviour and performance inconsistent with the vision and values.
- Openness, honesty and transparency were demonstrated when responding to incidents and complaints. The provider was aware of and had systems to ensure compliance with the requirements of the duty of candour.
- Staff we spoke with told us they were able to raise concerns and were encouraged to do so. They had confidence that these would be addressed.

- There were processes for providing all staff with the development they need. This included appraisal and career development conversations. All staff received regular annual appraisals in the last year. Staff were supported to meet the requirements of professional revalidation where necessary.
- Clinical staff were considered valued members of the practice team. They were given protected time for professional development and evaluation of their clinical work.
- There was a strong emphasis on the safety and well-being of all staff.
- The practice actively promoted equality and diversity. Staff felt they were treated equally.
- There were positive relationships between staff and teams.

Governance arrangements

There were clear responsibilities, roles and systems of accountability to support good governance and management.

- Structures, processes and systems to support good governance and management were clearly set out, understood and effective. The governance and management of partnerships, joint working arrangements and shared services promoted interactive and co-ordinated person-centred care.
- Staff were clear on their roles and accountabilities including in respect of safeguarding and infection prevention and control
- Practice leaders had established proper policies, procedures and activities to ensure safety and assured themselves that they were operating as intended.

Managing risks, issues and performance

There were clear processes for managing risks, issues and performance.

- There was an effective, process to identify, understand, monitor and address current and future risks including risks to patient safety.
- The practice had processes to manage current and future performance. Performance of employed clinical staff could be demonstrated through audit of their consultations, prescribing and referral decisions.
 Practice leaders had oversight of national and local safety alerts, incidents, and complaints.



Are services well-led?

- Clinical audit had a positive impact on quality of care and outcomes for patients. There was clear evidence of action to change practice to improve quality.
- The practice had plans in place and had trained staff for major incidents.
- The practice implemented service developments and where efficiency changes were made this was with input from clinicians to understand their impact on the quality of care.

Appropriate and accurate information

The practice acted on appropriate and accurate information.

- Quality and operational information was used to ensure and improve performance. Performance information was combined with the views of patients.
- Quality and sustainability were discussed in relevant meetings where all staff had sufficient access to information.
- The practice used performance information which was reported and monitored and management and staff were held to account.
- The information used to monitor performance and the delivery of quality care was accurate and useful. There were plans to address any identified weaknesses.
- The practice used information technology systems to monitor and improve the quality of care.
- The practice submitted data or notifications to external organisations as required.
- There were robust arrangements in line with data security standards for the availability, integrity and confidentiality of patient identifiable data, records and data management systems.

Engagement with patients, the public, staff and external partners

The practice involved patients, the public, staff and external partners to support high-quality sustainable services.

- A full and diverse range of patients', staff and external partners' views and concerns were encouraged, heard and acted on to shape services and culture. There was an active patient participation group.
- The service was transparent, collaborative and open with stakeholders about performance.

Continuous improvement and innovation

There were systems and processes for learning, continuous improvement and innovation.

- There was a focus on continuous learning and improvement.
- Staff knew about improvement methods and had the skills to use them.
- The practice made use of internal and external reviews of incidents and complaints. Learning was shared and used to make improvements.
- Leaders and managers encouraged staff to take time out to review individual and team objectives, processes and performance.