

A COMMITMENT TO ACT?

What progress has the NHS made in improving patient safety since Don Berwick's 2013 review, 'A Promise to Learn – a Commitment to Act'?

Ninety-nine NHS providers (40%), including acute, community, mental health and ambulance trusts, responded to a survey from the Health Foundation, Monitor and the Trust Development Authority.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT OF THE REVIEW?



64% of respondents told us the Berwick review has had a **high** or **very high** impact on their safety improvement agenda

Improvements directly attributed to the review include:



IN THE WARD:
Better incident reporting, particularly reporting that embraces openness and enables wider lessons to be learned



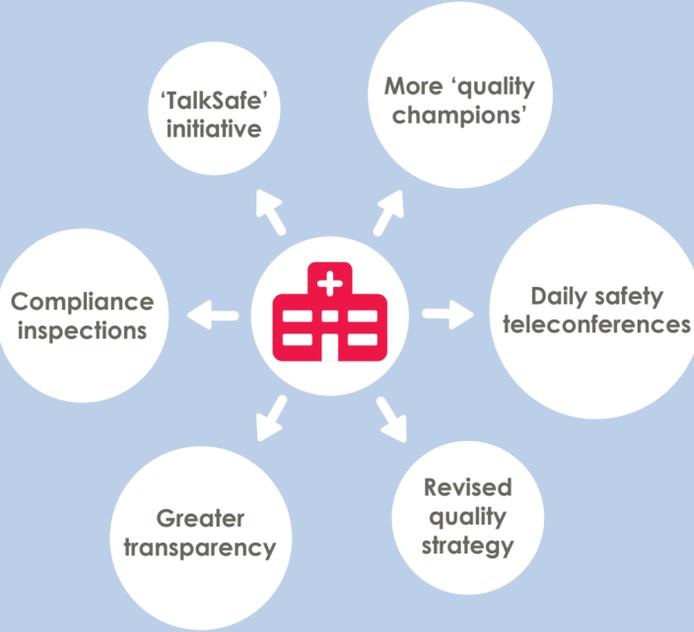
AT THE BOARD:
Updated strategies and governance to reflect the Berwick review's ambitions

HAS PATIENT SAFETY IMPROVED?



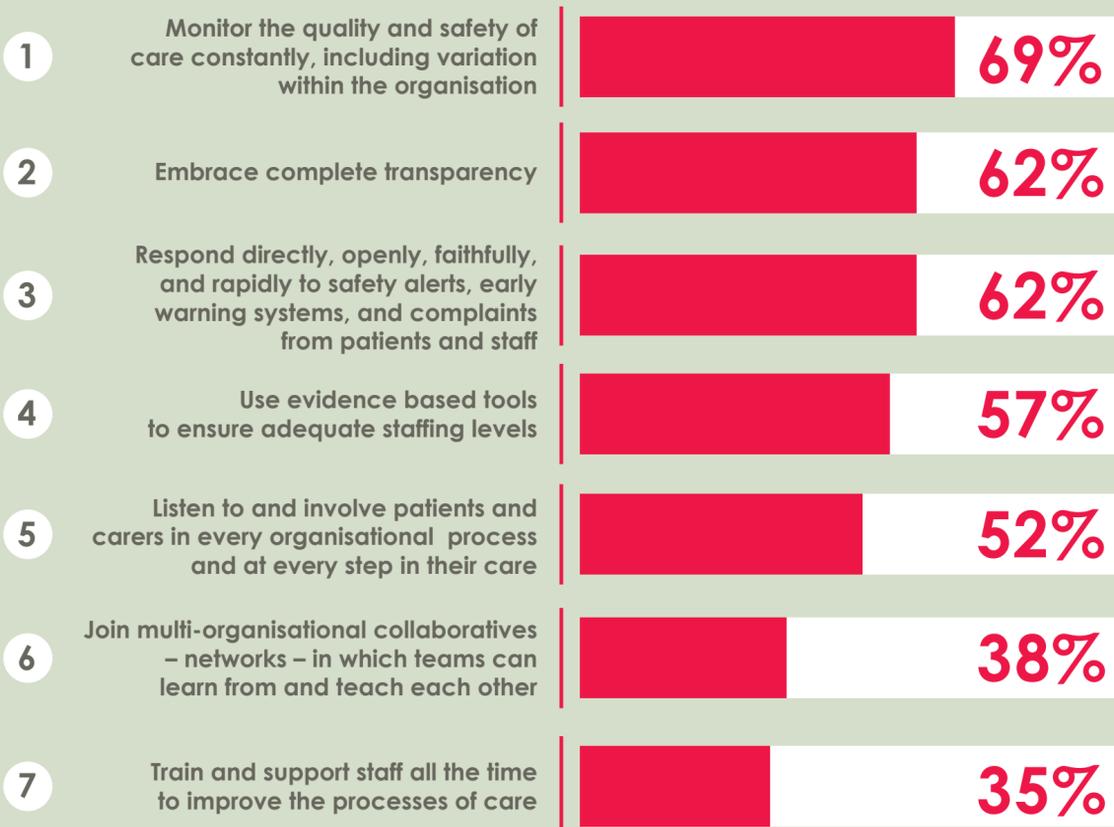
of respondents agree or strongly agree with the statement **we are making progress towards a continual reduction in harm**

There were many examples of organisations taking pride in the changes they have made to improve safety. For example, **one** organisation told us that they had introduced:



ARE THE REVIEW'S 'COMMITMENTS' BEING ACTED UPON?

The Berwick review set out seven 'commitments' for the leaders of NHS organisations. Respondents reported the following **significant** or **very significant** progress against them:



This was felt to be the most challenging area due to staff shortages, pressures on funding and the time it takes to embed culture change

HOW CAN NATIONAL AGENCIES SUPPORT IMPROVEMENT IN PATIENT SAFETY?

Respondents told us that national bodies should provide NHS organisations with:



Sharing learning, evidence and best practice, and making improvement tools, resources and benchmarking data available



Acknowledging when improvements have been made and recognising that lasting improvement takes time to achieve