**Seminar Q&A**

**What was the purpose of the seminars?**

The seminars provided an opportunity to explore the ‘forward-looking’ part of the Inquiry’s terms of reference, to help draw lessons from the events at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust for the wider health system.

They were arranged to enable a wider discussion on some of the key themes raised by the evidence so far. They gave the Inquiry an opportunity to engage some of the wider stakeholders in health, whose views are valuable but who may not have been involved in the Inquiry as witnesses or core participants.

The seminars did not make recommendations to the Chairman, but have provided ideas and information that will form part of the material to be considered by him as he drafts his final report.

**What topics did the seminars cover?**

The seminars covered seven themes:

- Regulation methods
- Development and training for Trust leaders
- Information
- Organisational culture
- Nursing
- Patient Experience
- Commissioning

**When and where did the seminars take place?**

The seminars ran over a three week period in October/November 2011. Each seminar lasted one day (usually 10am to 4.30pm).

- Regulation methods – Thursday 13 October in central Manchester
- Development and training for Trust leaders – Tuesday 18 October in central Leeds
- Information – Wednesday 19 October in central Leeds
- Organisational culture – Tuesday 25 October in central London
- Nursing – Monday 31 October in central London
- Patient experience - Wednesday 2 November in Stafford
- Commissioning – Thursday 3 November in central London
Why did the seminars take place across the country?

Holding the seminars in a number of different locations was intended to make them accessible to a range of different stakeholders and reflects the focus of the seminars on the lessons to be drawn for the broader health system.

What was the format of the seminars?

Each seminar was based around a number of papers and/or presentations, given by different speakers. The aim was to prompt a frank and constructive discussion about the lessons to be drawn and ideas for the future, drawing on the experience and expertise of the participants. The seminars were led by Dr Sarah Harvey, a director at Loop2 and an experienced facilitator with a background in health services and health policy.

Who wrote the papers for the seminars?

The Chairman asked a range of people to produce papers, from a range of sectors. The papers and presentations are all available in the seminars section of the Inquiry’s website.

Who attended the seminars?

To keep the size of the seminars manageable, and ensure those taking part were able to contribute fully, participation in the seminars was by invitation only. The Chairman invited people from a range of backgrounds and experience, who have specific expertise on the relevant seminar topic, including participants who could offer a patient perspective. Core participants were invited to send a representative to participate in each.

The Chairman was present at each seminar to participate, but did not chair the sessions.

Each seminar had, on average, between 30 and 40 participants. The names of all participants and observers are published on the Inquiry’s website and are annexed to the report of the seminars.

Will the discussion at the seminars be published?

Yes. A report of the seminars is available on the Inquiry’s website, along with all the papers and presentations from each day. The report was published ahead of the Inquiry’s oral closing submissions, so that Counsel to the Inquiry and core participants were able to reflect any key ideas if they wished.

The seminar format makes a verbatim transcript of each seminar impractical, but the Inquiry has produced a series of podcasts of the seminars, including interviews with the speakers, recordings of the plenary sessions and opening and closing remarks, and a short summary with highlights of each day. These are available in the seminars section of the Inquiry’s website.
Were members of the public able to attend?

Yes, a number of places, dependent on the size of each venue, were made available for members of the public and press to attend as observers. As places were limited, anyone wanting to observe a seminar was asked to contact the Inquiry to register for their place at least three working days in advance. It was not possible to admit people on the day without this prior registration, and without confirmation of a reserved place.

A list of observers at each seminar is available on the Inquiry’s website and in the annexes to the report of the seminars.

If the seminars were by invitation only, were members of the public and other organisations still able to contribute?

Yes, all the papers and presentations for the seminars were published in advance of each seminar on the Inquiry’s website and comments and reflections on these were welcome, provided they fell within the Inquiry’s terms of reference.

All contributions on the seminar papers, podcasts and on the final report of the seminars are being considered by the Inquiry, alongside the other material that has been received.