

Building on the two previous successful SPSP National conferences, the third national safety conference was held on the 29th of November at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre.

The main aims of the day were to

- celebrate success that teams have achieved,
- share practical approaches to prevent deterioration and improve outcomes, and
- network with delegates to learn from their experiences



Over 750 delegates attended from across the country; from the Borders to Shetland, across NHS Health Boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships, from Chief Executives to care home liaison nurses. Speakers and guests joined from across the globe, with Pedro Delgado, IHI, hosting the day. Key speakers included Cabinet Secretary for Health, Ms Shona Robison and Emmanuel Gobillot who delivered a fast-paced, challenging and humorous keynote speech focusing on leadership, collaboration and innovation.

The morning sessions included examples from across the country where interventions had taken place around prevention, recognition and response to deterioration; ranging from pre-weekend safety briefings in the State Hospital to reducing cardiac arrest rates in NHS Forth Valley.



In the afternoon the sessions focused on the SPSP programmes themselves, like the morning sessions, the speakers were selected by a panel following a review of expressions of interest. This allowed delegates to hear from people truly dedicated to this work who shared their approaches to preventing deterioration at both individual and service level, with the ultimate aim of improving outcomes by reducing harm to people in both health and social care services across Scotland and beyond.

The closing plenary took a different approach this year with a panel debate with representatives from across Scottish Government Policy, Medical, Nursing and Social Work within NHS Boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships and the voice of service users. The topic was “Safety is sorted; it’s time to move on to another dimension of quality”. The clear message from the panel was that the answer is no, whilst a lot has been achieved in the lifetime of the programme, the breadth and scale of safety, and quality, requires that a continued focus is required. As was mentioned by some of the panel members – “why wouldn’t you do it?”



Twitter

***8,873,378
impressions
made***

8,018 tweets

***941
participants***

Post conference evaluation yielded positive feedback; with over 70% of respondents stating that the conference helped them to plan improvements in safety and reduce harm in their organisation, over 65% agreed the conference increased their confidence in taking safety work forward in their workplace and over 80% stating they enjoyed the conference.

The conference has been submitted to the NHS Communications Awards in two categories, “Best Event” and “Best use of Social Media”. The conference is the largest to be organised by a single NHS board where the aim is to bring as many different health and social care workers from across the whole of Scotland to improve safety in all aspects of care. SPSP is seeing improvement in the areas it works in and this conference is a key aspect of helping staff on the frontline deliver safer care. By using Twitter and reaching a larger audience with just under nine million impressions made, more than double last year’s, we are able to demonstrate our initial aims of generating interest, share content and encourage staff to continue to cascade their learning. The winners are to be announced 9 March.