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**Helen Roberts, patient safety manager at the Trust, tells us about how a simple ten minute team conversation each day is making a huge difference to the safety of our service users on our wards.**

#### More than just a chat

If you visit one of South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust’s wards and see a group of doctors, nurses, healthcare assistants, housekeepers and therapists looking like they’re just having a chat, they’re actually protecting and maintaining the safety of all the service users in their care.

They’re taking part in safety huddles, where team members gather to focus on keeping patients safe from specific harm, for example falls or violence and aggression.

#### Being prepared together

Huddles help the team focus on keeping patients safe today, and planning so that we’re ready for tomorrow. Huddles aim to increase staff awareness of specific safety issues, which in turn shifts mindsets, leading people to think proactively and become more anticipatory in the care they deliver.

Everyone on the ward is invited to take part in a safety huddle as we all have a role to play in helping to improve care and safety. Teams are supported to identify their own focus for their huddles, resulting in ownership of the approach. Teams taking part in huddles report improved staff morale and motivation, which sees an improvement in culture and demonstrating the Trust’s values in action.

Safety huddles are already delivering great outcomes in improving care. Patient safety is being improved by reducing harm, enhancing patient experience and the quality of care.

#### In a nutshell

Safety huddles are an opportunity for teams to come together and have a conversation about how they can improve patient safety on their ward.





*Barnsley neurological rehabilitation unit receiving an award for going 25 days without a fall*



*Chantry unit in Wakefield receiving an award for going 39 days without a fall*

Safety huddles were shortlisted at our 2017 Excellence awards. See the work showcased in our short film



### Putting it into practice

Several teams have now introduced safety huddles following the success of our pilot wards, Chantry ward at Fieldhead in Wakefield and the stroke rehabilitation unit in Barnsley. All ward staff attend the huddle whether clinicians or support staff, and everyone has a voice and an opportunity to contribute. The forum enables staff to speak up and share information, ensuring a team approach to making changes to improve safety and keeping patients safe from harm.

Safety huddles are showing a measurable impact on keeping patients safe; bringing teams closer together by taking time out daily to motivate and inspire each other to provide the best care through improving our culture.

Huddles embody the values of the organisation. They help teams to put patients first and in the centre by focussing on who is at risk of harm today, proactively thinking about risk to make wards a safer place for everyone in the future.

### Since we started safety huddles we have seen some great results...

Team	Harm reduced	What were the results?
Chantry unit, Wakefield	Violence and aggression	21 days in between an incident compared to 7 days previously
Stroke rehabilitation unit, Barnsley	Falls	40 days in between a fall compared to 6 days previously
Neurological rehabilitation unit, Barnsley	Falls	25 days in between a fall compared to 18 days previously
Beechdale, Calderdale	Falls	14 days in between a fall compared to 7 days previously
	Violence and aggression	7 days in between an incident compared to 2.5 days previously