

Making Data Count : board development

Overview

Since November 2017, the Making Data Count team have trained more than 200 NHS boards on how to use data most effectively to inform their decision making. The Making Data Count approach is based on implementing an analytical approach called statistical process control (SPC) which enables 'signals' to be easily differentiated from 'noise'.

The majority of boards have subsequently changed their reporting style and have described many benefits¹ including becoming more strategic, making fewer knee-jerk decisions and strengthened governance processes.

What's involved in a development session?

Board development sessions are delivered via MS Teams and are interactive. Sessions involve discussion on how different presentations of data can lead to different conversations/decisions and explore the importance of understanding variation.

Each session is tailored to the trust/ICB and includes:

1. Re-visualising measures displayed in the IPR to demonstrate how different methods of displaying data to can lead to different conclusions;
2. A critique of the current IPR (including the narrative);
3. Recommendations to enable the development of a best practice IPR;
4. An overview of further free training and resources available to all staff

The time required for a development session is 90 minutes which includes time for discussion.

¹ This paper describes in more detail the impact of the board training [National Health Service \(NHS\) trust boards adopt statistical process control reporting: the impact of the Making Data Count Training Programme | BMJ Leader](#)



Is a Making Data Count board session worthwhile?

Sessions have been very well received by boards and resulted in significant changes being made to the format of reporting within a matter of months.

Here is a selection of comments from board members :

- *“Huge added value - a game changer”*
- *“All Trusts should do this – it’s like switching the light on so you can see the data”*
- *“Very valuable presentation with significant potential to improve my ability as a NED to make good decisions”*
- *“Eye opening presentation on SPC – excellent explanation of benefits”*
- *“This needs to be done at every level top to bottom”*

Reflections from the Chair of Croydon Health Services NHS Trust :

“I was very pleased with the Making Data Count session recently held with our board. The session was engaging, thought provoking and informative and very well received by Board members. One of the most powerful elements of the session was seeing our data presented in a different format - as Statistical Process Control (SPC) charts. This provoked new questions and made us realise the key issues that we should be discussing as a Board. I would encourage other Trusts to request a session as I’m sure that they would also benefit.”

What to do if you would like to request a session

If you would like to request a board development session or learn more, please contact Samantha Riley, Director of Making Data Count Samantha.riley1@nhs.net

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