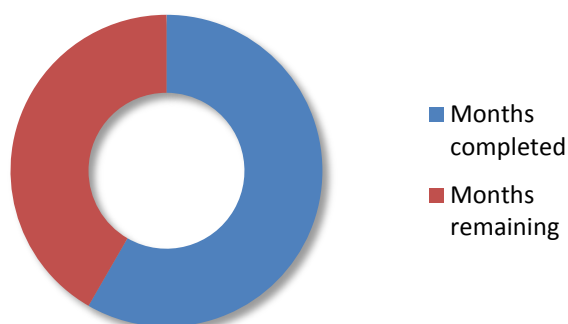# Clinical service accreditation alliance: August update

Background

The Clinical Service Accreditation Alliance (the Alliance) is a collection of colleges, professional bodies, regulators, commissioners and patients brought together to standardise and improve the quality of service accreditation, ensuring accreditation is patient focused, leads to improvements in standards of care and places as small an administrative burden on the healthcare system as possible.

The Alliance has been in existence since late 2013, and a memorandum of understanding to provide funding for the work was agreed between the six sponsoring organisations from July 2014 to June 2016.

Alliance duration

- Months completed
- Months remaining

Sponsoring organisations

- Academy for Healthcare Science
- Allied Health Professions Federation
- Royal College of Nursing
- Royal College of Physicians
- Royal College of Surgeons
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society

The Alliance has a growing number of stakeholders across numerous organisations involved and interested in accreditation. These stakeholders are critical to the success of the Alliance, providing resources to undertake the work, providing input and advice to the Alliance, and feeding back to their individual organisations.

75 ⎰ • Stakeholders

40 ⎰ • Organisations

Progress

Progress against the Alliance's work streams is shown below. The work streams are as follows:

- **WS1:** Standards for assessing accreditation schemes

The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) is working in collaboration with the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) on this work stream to develop a set of guidance for clinical

service accreditation schemes that is underpinned by ISO standards, specifically ISO/IEC17065 *(Conformity assessment – requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services).*

- **WS2:** Compilation of current accreditation practice and methodology

This work stream submitted its report to the Alliance Project Board in July 2015.

- **WS3:** Mapping and prioritisation of clinical services for scheme development

This work stream has mapped clinical services against NHS England's National Clinical Director areas and is reviewing the prioritisation of these in terms of developing accreditation schemes. This prioritisation is based on a number of factors including previous and current focus on quality improvement and how clear the configuration of an accreditation scheme in these areas would be.

The Alliance had an informative and productive meeting with stakeholders with an interest in learning disability services in July. This meeting showed a clear appetite for accreditation of learning disability services, and attempted to work through the feasibility of this. It is acknowledged to be a very complex area that will require much discussion to determine the best way forward.

- **WS4:** A core set of generic clinical service standards to be used by accreditation schemes to accredit services
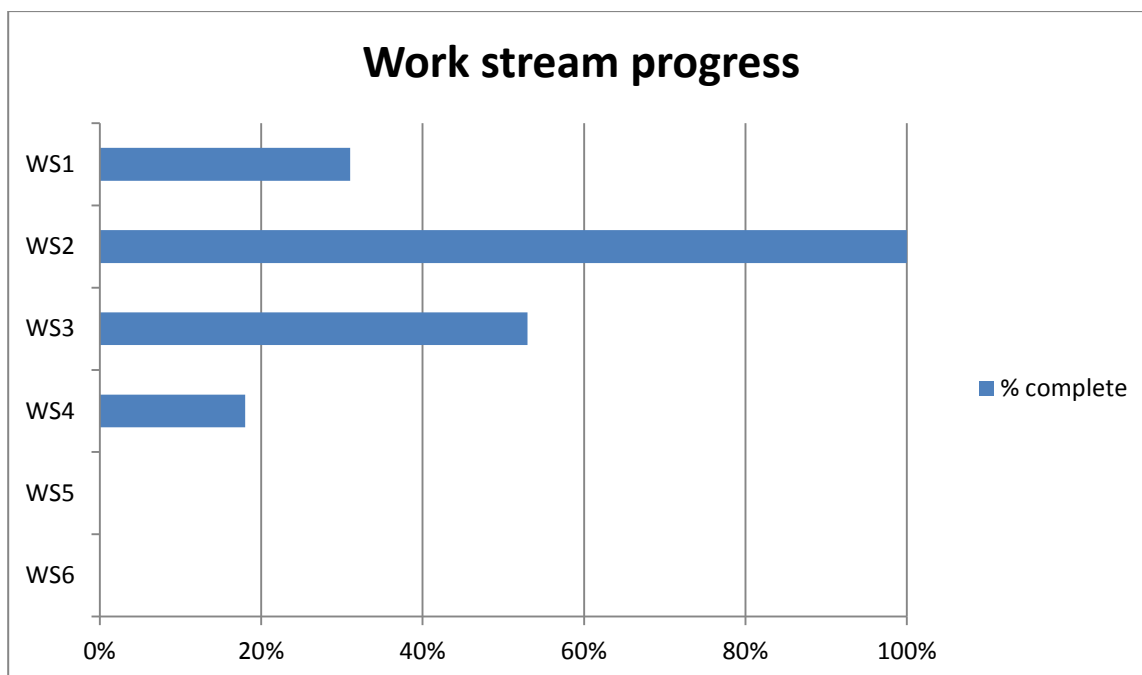
The British Standards Institute (BSI) is managing the development process of these standards. The standards are in the first drafting stage and the groups to review and consult on these are being put together. The standards have a provisional publication date of 1 June 2016.

- **WS5:** Specification for an IT system for accreditation schemes

This s in the scoping stage to determine exactly what is needed from this work stream and who needs to be involved.

- **WS6:** Toolkit for guiding and aiding the development of accreditation schemes

WS6 is dependent on the outputs of a number of work streams and as such will be the last to begin.

Customer research

The Royal College of Nursing, on behalf of the Alliance, is running customer research to help guide the Alliance's work and shape its outputs. This research comprises two aspects; an online survey and a set of interviews with a limited group of organisations. The interviews will provide further qualitative data to enhance the information gained through the survey. If you have received a request to complete the survey, we would be most grateful if you could take a few minutes of your time to fill this in.