

# **Haematology and Transfusion Network Scotland (HATS)**

## **Annual Report 2023/24**

**Lead Clinician:** Mr Alistair Hart/ Miss Gillian McGaffin

**Network Scientific Manager:** Ms Robyn Gunn/Mrs Sonja Wright

**Programme Manager:** Dr Catherine Colquhoun

**Programme Support Officer:** Mrs Nurjan Rakymova/Mrs Stephanie Hales

## Introduction

Managed Diagnostic Networks are defined as *co-ordinated groups of health professionals that support diagnostic services to continuously improve service delivery, in order to ensure equitable provision of high quality, clinically effective services*. Diagnostics, whether delivered in primary, community or secondary care, has an important role to play in achieving NHS Scotland quality ambitions by contributing to early, accurate and cost effective diagnosis, monitoring and self-management.

The role of the Haematology and Transfusion Network Scotland (HATS) is to improve haematology and transfusion services by developing and delivering a workplan, that will:

- Steer modernisation, including service change and redesign
- Improve quality
- Support provision of effective and equitable haematology and transfusion service
- Anticipate and respond to user needs and future requirements (and)
- Fosters cross-board communications for departments to meet national guidelines

## Current Position

HATS have achieved 5/9 56% of its set service development objectives in 2023/24. The other objectives are close to completion and reasons for delay have been noted.

SFLC business case drafted, delays have occurred due to work load pressures and the impact of the roll out of national LIMS. There has also been changes in the charging of the SFLC test between NHS Boards within Scotland which has altered the engagement in the development of this work stream. It is now hoped it will drive forward swiftly in 2024-25.

QI project on wastage of O-ve blood, is being scheduled, although not completed within the 23-24 year period, it will occur within 2024/25 period. Challenges due to staffing pressures, and the search for a facilitator for the session. The questions for the session and preparations for the session have been developed. This is a key work stream, as the impact of wastage of this precious resource is high for SNBTS.

The HATS network developed and have successfully supported the implementation for the ADAMTS13 test to Scotland. This has had great patient benefits. The Co-ag sub group has investigated whether it would be beneficial to also repatriate the ADAMTS13 antibody test, it has been found with the numbers in Scotland it would not be beneficial due to scale of economy. We have planned to have the topic presented at the Annual Education Event in May 2024, to support obtaining the audit data on the benefits of the repatriation of the test to Scotland and aim to produce an outcomes report to conclude the project in 2024-25 work plan.

Safer staffing: HATS network has been engaging with the Scottish Clinical Biochemistry Network (SCBN) workforce and education (WFE) sub group, which has a primary focus has been to ensure the laboratory community have a voice in how new safer staffing legislation should be addressed in laboratories. This is going to be a topic at the HATS annual education event in May 2024, with

Sarah Cartwright coming to present as the senior advisor on the safer staffing legislation at Scottish Government.

The Network continued to make use of technology and remote communications to progress work this year. This has continued to be effective, saving time on travel and promoting economically friendly practices. Employing a hybrid model of virtual and in person options for the education event, opens up the event to staff than may not be able to attend otherwise, in particular remote and rural sites.

## Highlights

### EDUCATION EVENT

There were 58 attendees in person with a couple able to attend virtually. This represented at least eight different NHS Boards as seen in fig 1. The attendees verbally and in the survey reported they were very satisfied with the event, particularly enjoying the talk presented from three different perspectives laboratory staff, clinician and a patient who has benefited from the Paroxysmal Nocturnal Haemoglobinuria (PNH) diagnosis fig 4. It was a great day, not only supporting established colleagues but trainees, and provided a good networking opportunity for colleagues across NHS Scotland and valuable discussions on the presented topics. It highlighted challenges within transfusion that colleagues in haematology may not have been aware of. Bringing together the two communities also provides important opportunities for strengthening the links between laboratory haematology and transfusion.

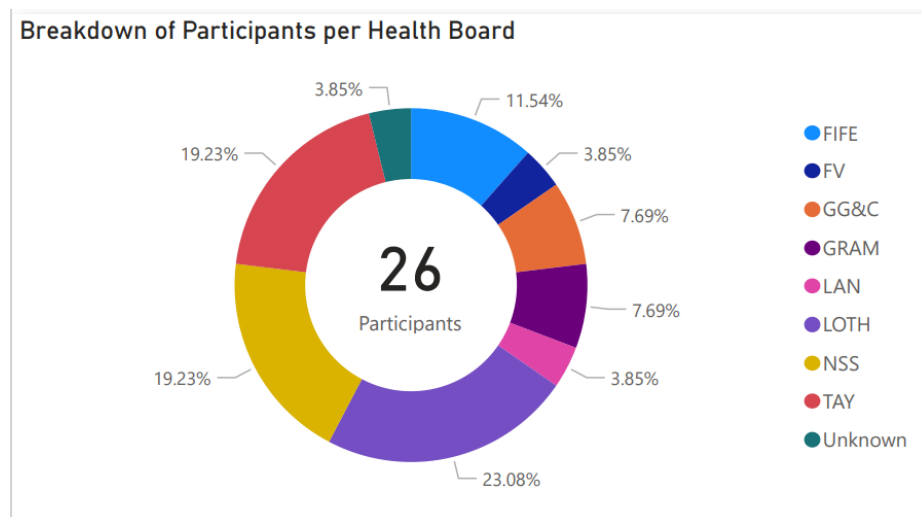


Fig 1

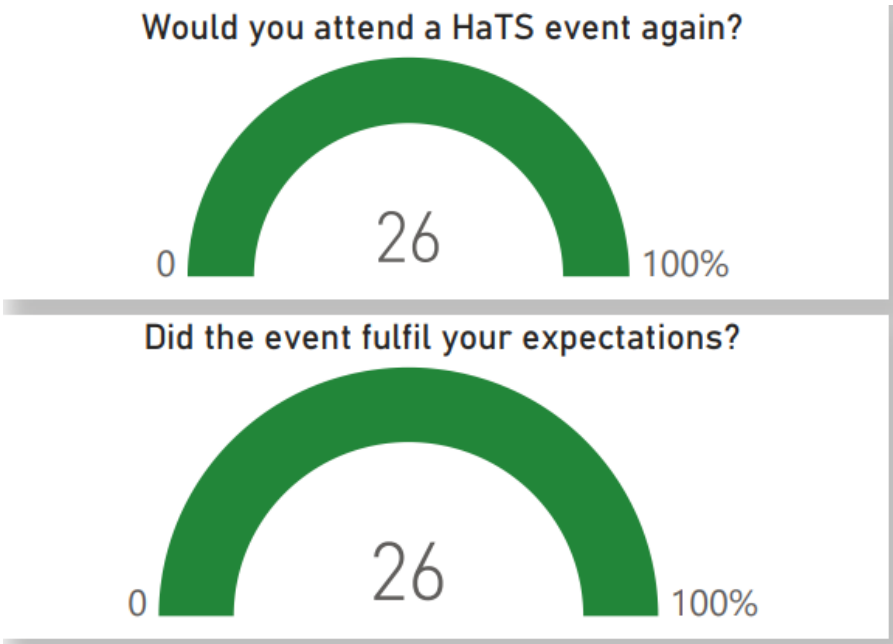


Fig 2

Job Titles	Number
▲	
Biomedical Staff	17
Consultant	3
Manager	5
Unknown	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>

Fig 3

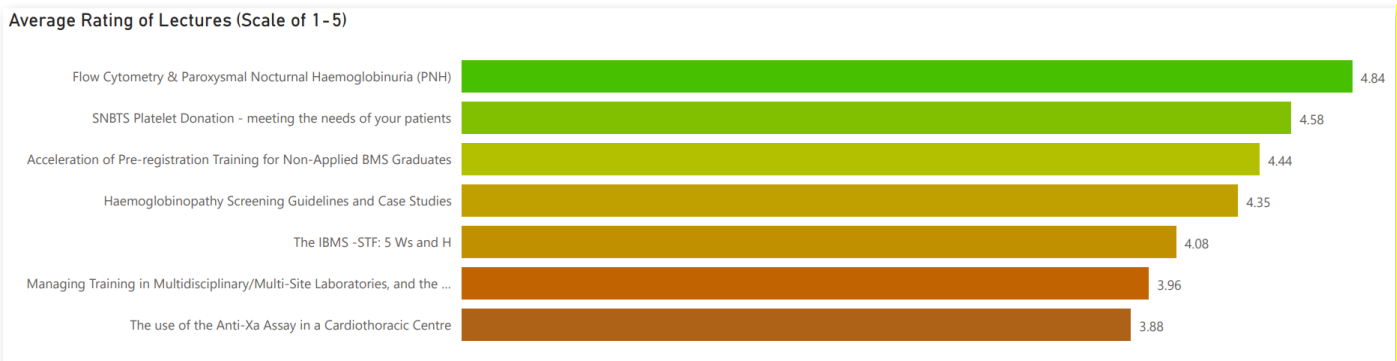


Fig 4

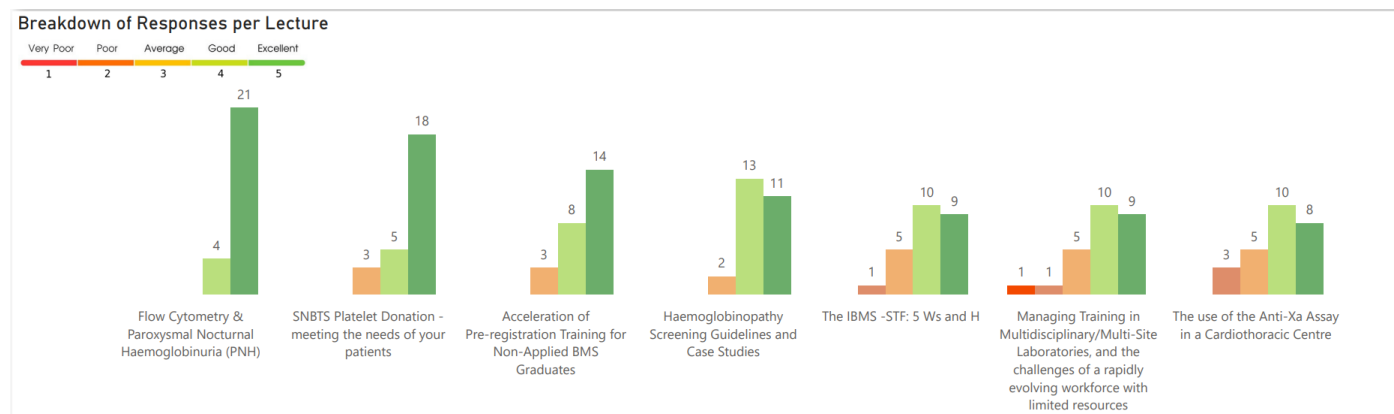


Fig 5

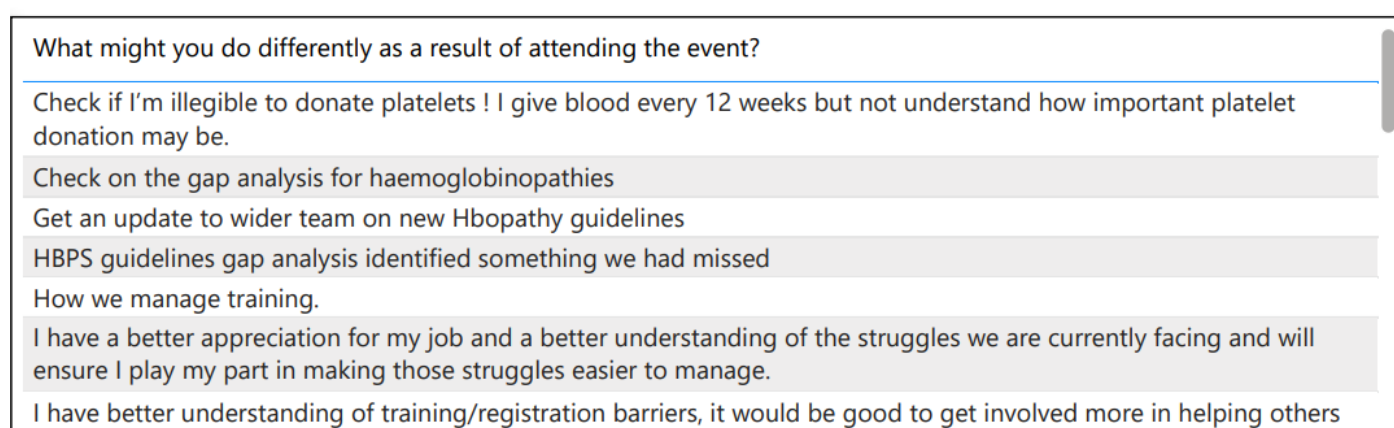


Fig 6

## Benchmarking

This year marked further successful collaboration between HATS's Network members and the Information Management Service (IMS) in relation to quality and performance benchmarking. The report provides an insight into the performance of individual haematology and transfusion departments, set in the context of other NHS Health Boards in Scotland. The ability of the network to determine and shape the template for the data requests, ensures the information being gathered, best supports the on-going projects and horizon scanning of the projects coming up for the network. As seen below fig 7, is the dashboard at the beginning of the benchmarking report that highlights the extent of the workload that is carried out in haematology and transfusion, as well as specialist workload, transfusion workload, and staffing numbers.

# HATS Network

## Annual Report 2023/24

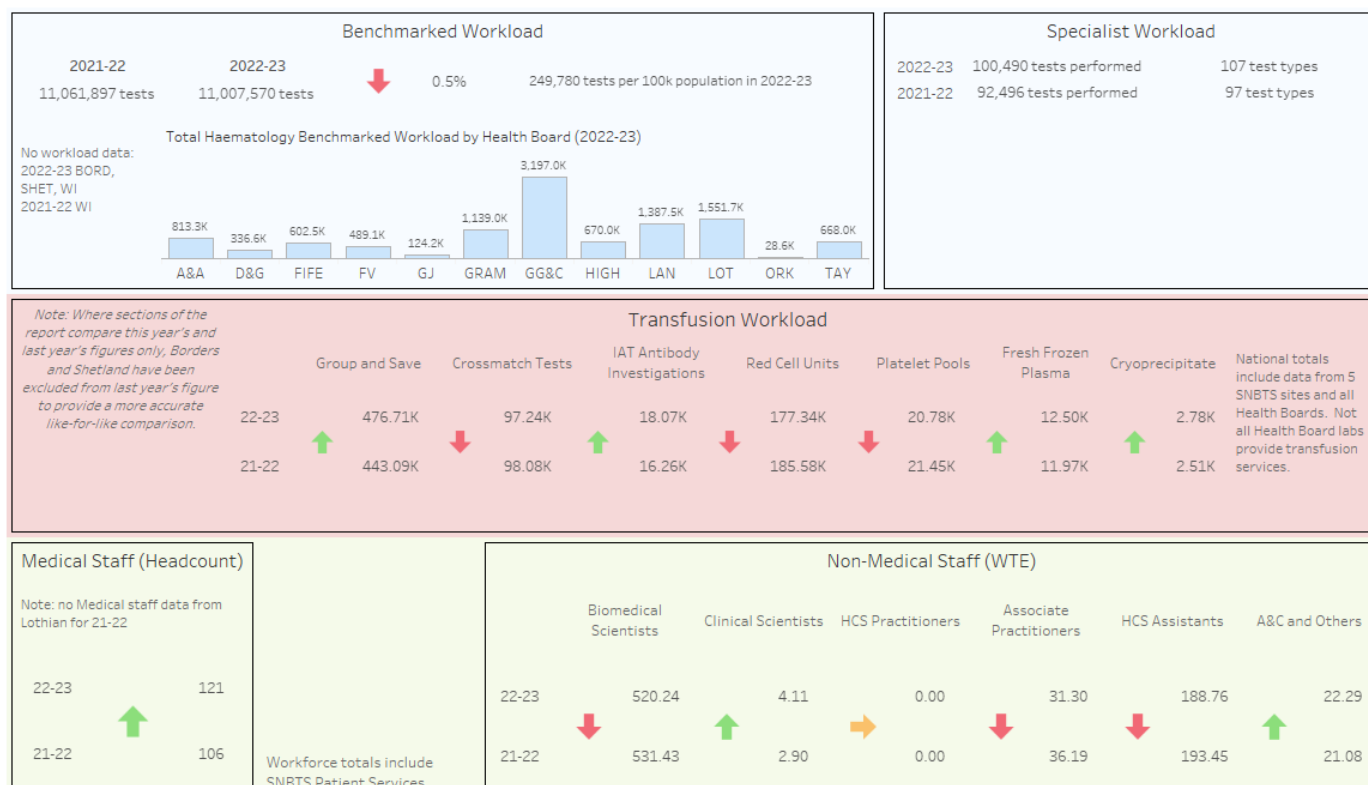


Fig 7

Feedback from network members indicates the benchmark reports are highly valued. HATS began collecting data for network benchmarking in 2019 when formed, which included data from 2018-2019. This now enables the network to compare trends and changes across a data bank of several years of reports. The HATS benchmarking allows national and local monitoring of service effectiveness and supports departments to measure their performance against others and a National average. HATS benchmarking data is reviewed, and new data collection is performed when areas for monitoring performance or improving quality is identified. Future work will include collecting benchmarking data to support the evaluation of various relevant pathways and evaluating the impact of network activities and new guidance.

## National Collaborative LIMS Specification and Scoring

During 2023/24 HATS have continued to support and drive the preparatory work required to implement the new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). Activity has focused on the accelerated LIMS implementation for Health Boards. Mrs Robyn Gunn one of the NSM has been key in the communications for NHS Fife to the network, updating on the progress. Through the HATS key contacts have been identified and ensured disciplines have been represented, and members trained on the ontology server training. HATS will continue to provide a key role in the driving forward and communications between the national roll out of LIMS and the networks. The HATS LC has confirmed a member of the National LIMS team will come to present and answer questions at the next SG meeting.

## HATS REVIEW

The network has fully engaged and participated in the first review of HATS during 2023-24. The NSD603-001.04 V5

review was very positive on the work of the network and the benefits realised through the work streams of the network. The recommendations made through the review are being addressed and will be concluded within 2024-25. The points raised have been adopted into a tracker and improvements are being made across all the diagnostic networks.

### Network value survey

There were 22 responses to the network value survey from HATS members. But reaching out to network members to gauge their views and experience of the network, it will enable the network to develop key areas where stakeholders feel improvements would be beneficial. The core team will review these results and identify areas for improvement, if they haven't already been identified and incorporated into the annual work plan and recommendations for the review.

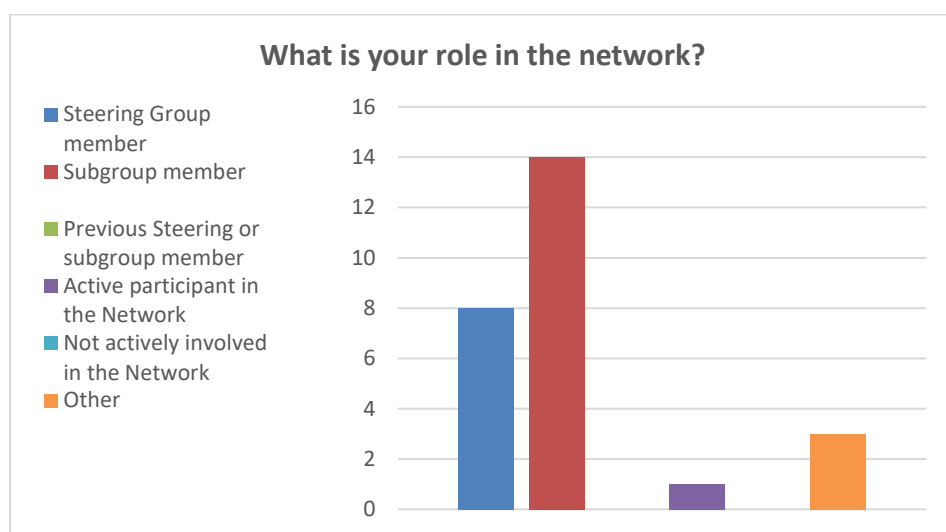


Fig 8

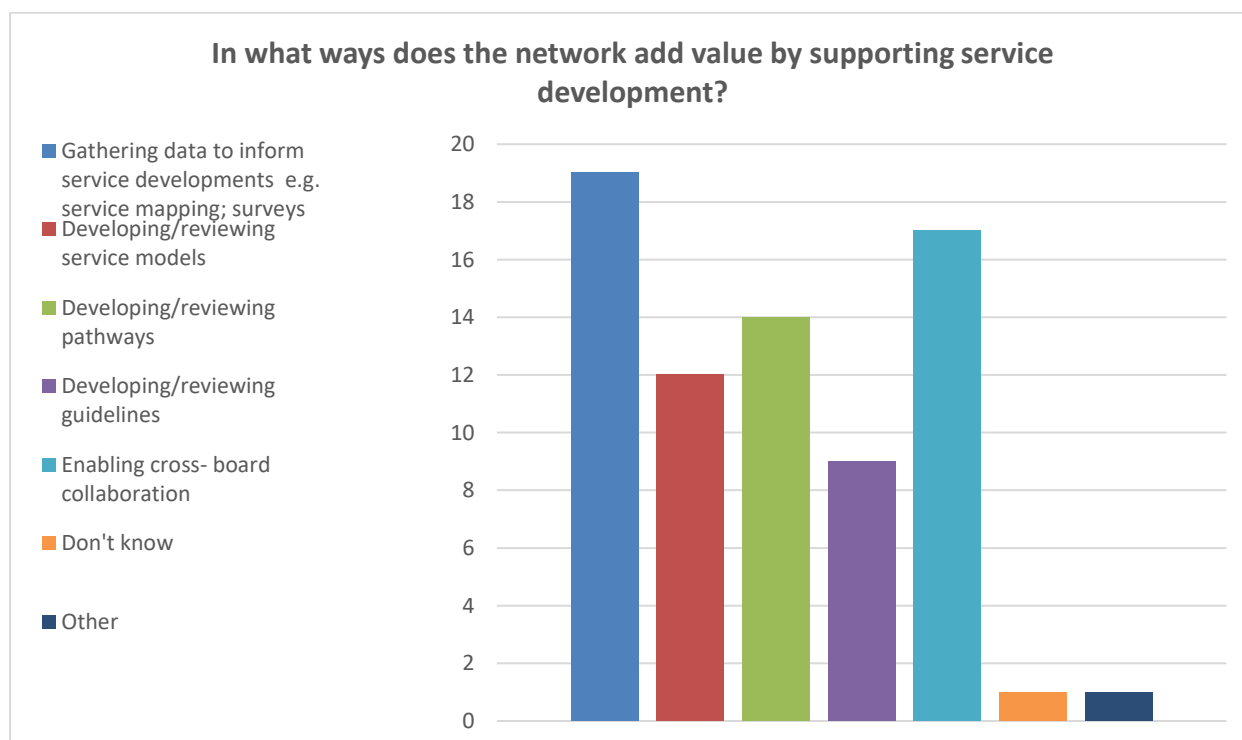


Fig 9

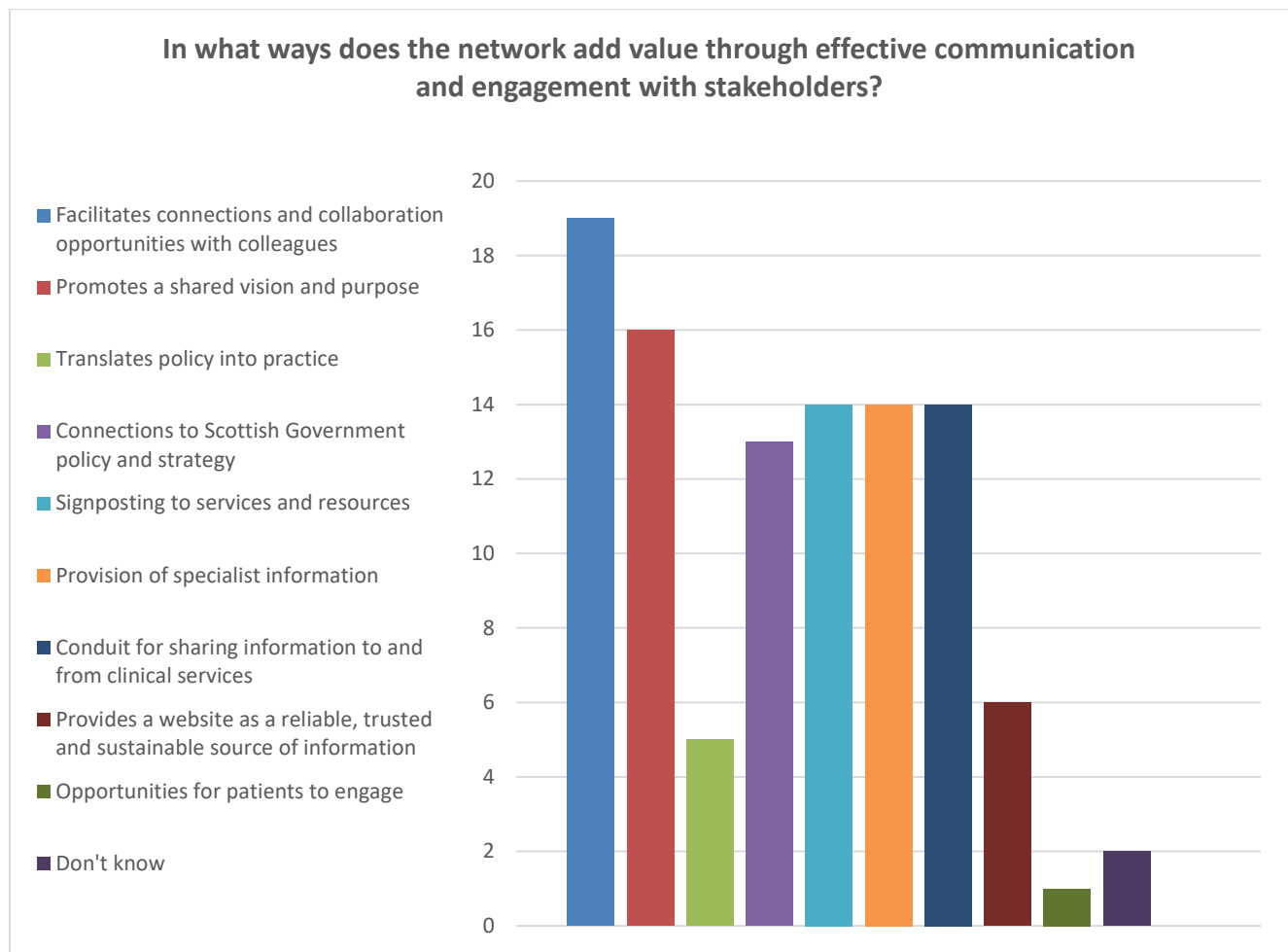


Fig 10



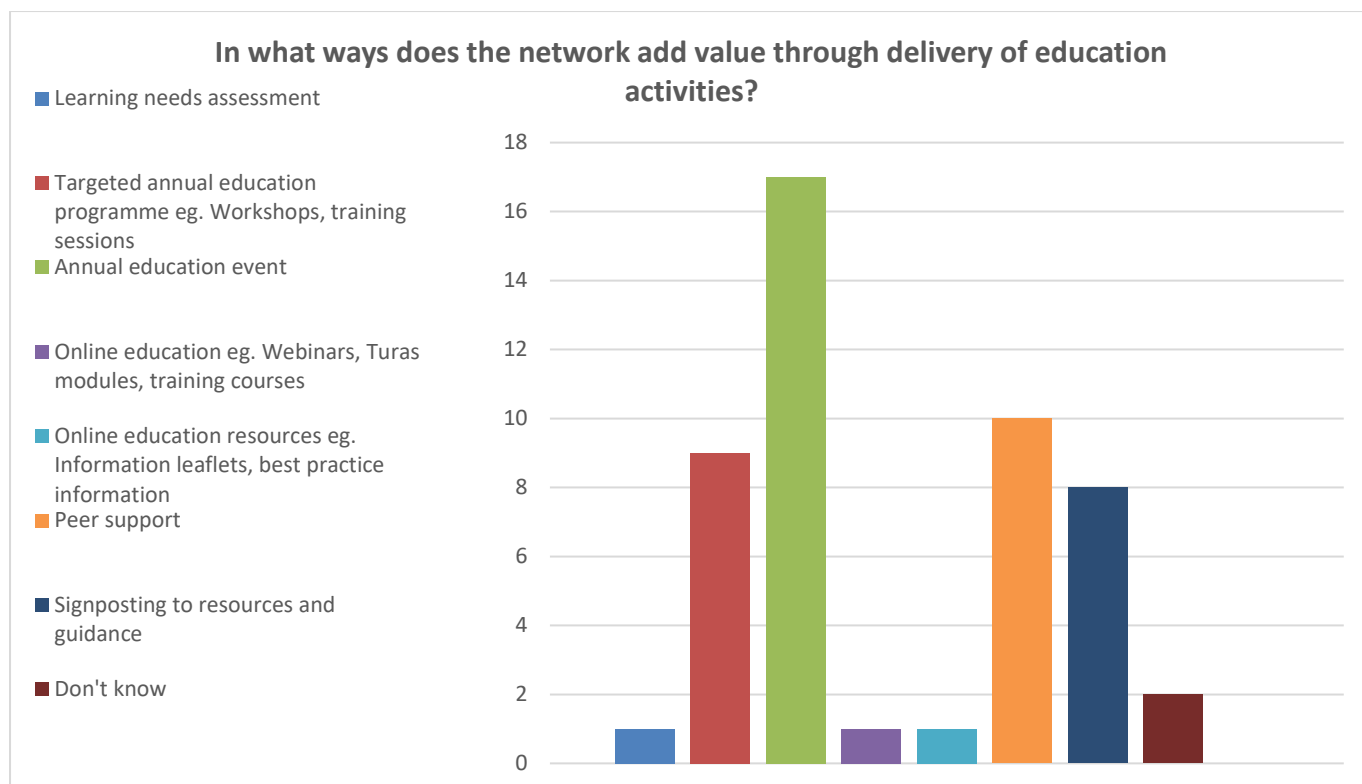


Fig 11

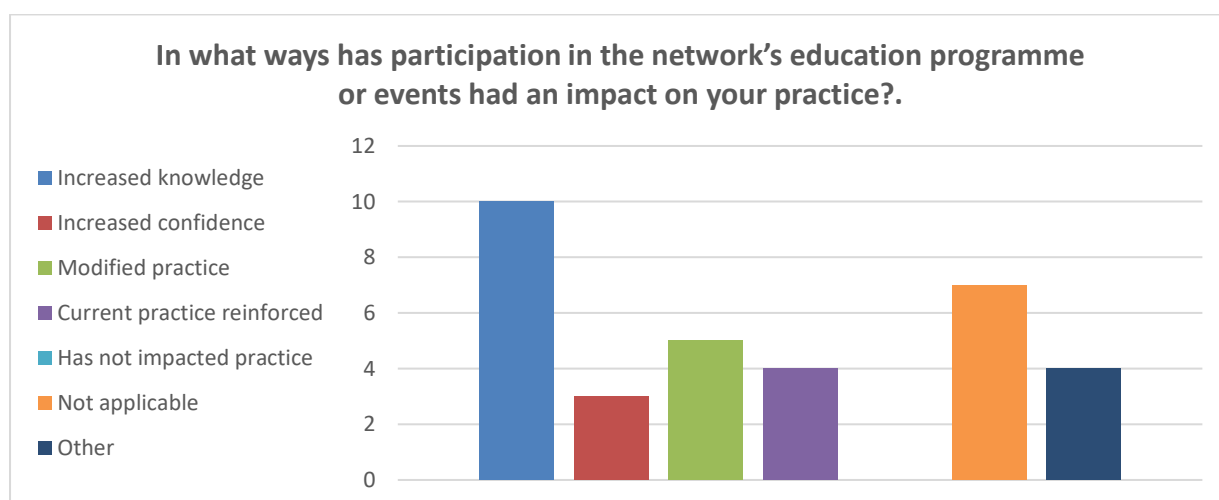


Fig 12

## Looking forward – 2024/25

The role of the Haematology and Transfusion Scotland Network (HATS) is to improve haematology and transfusion services by:

- steering modernisation, including service change and redesign,
- improving quality
- supporting the provision of an effective haematology and transfusion services that anticipates and responds to user needs, future requirements and national guidelines.

## HATS Network

### Annual Report 2023/24

The network is engaged and proactive in the development of the SSND, and contributes to discussions at the SSND core group meetings. The continued work and development towards being integrated into the SSND is key, in Dec 2023 the Board of Chief Executives made decision for the five managed diagnostic networks to become integrated with the SSND. During 2024/25 work will continue to fully integrate the networks into the structure.

## Finance

HATS spent a total of £2,586.60 from an allocated budget of £5,000.

Annual Education Event	£2,586.60
Travel costs	£0
Printing	£0

## Risks & Issues

Clinical pressures mean that there is an ongoing risk that the community may not have time to support the business plan for 2024/25. Progress against the business plan will be actively monitored throughout the year to assess if this becomes an issue.

## Leadership post end dates

Miss Gillian McGaffin in Lead Clinician post until end of Dec 2026, the NSM post is up end of June 2024.