**Driver Diagrams**

**Using Driver Diagrams with other QI tools**

* PDSA (Plan, Do, Study Act): Driver diagrams are a tool which forms part of the improvement process. Once you have a completed driver diagram (including identifying your projects) you are ready to begin project implementation. Driver diagrams lead to potential projects. PDSA cycles are a rigorous testing cycle to understand what changes actually lead to improvement.
* Baseline Measurement: Once data items have been identified using a driver diagram, a baseline needs to be determined, enabling comparison once improvements are trailed. SPC is a useful way of robustly demonstrating this.
* SPC (Statistical Process Control): A graphical display of data which includes variation, a tool to show robust baselines, statistical improvements and sustainability of new systems.
* Cause and effect Diagrams (also known as Ishikawa Diagram): These are similar to a driver diagram, but instead of starting with an aim, you start with a problem. The cause and effect diagram then helps understand the route causes of that problem.

**Linking your driver diagram to good measurement**

* The drivers in a driver diagram should be made measurable. That way a driver diagram can become a measurement framework for tracking progress towards a goal. Once the driver diagram is created it is wise to have a second activity around the driver diagram where each box (aim, primary, secondary and intervention) is examined via the use of two questions: how much? And by when? This will lead to some useful measurement discussions for demonstrating and proving project success.

**Benefits of using Driver Diagrams**

* If completed by staff and service users of the whole system, there will be improved ‘buy in’ and commitment to any improvement projects that result, as people feel involved.
* The tool helps define what to measure. To the left of the driver diagram ‘Outcome’ measures will be displayed, and to the right possible ‘process’ measures can be identified.
* If you have a clear project / programme aim, which does not include a solution, the driver diagram will identify many interventions that may lead to achieving the aim.