

Minute of the 20th Honest Broker Governance Board Meeting

Friday 24th May 2019

Apologies were noted from the following

Voting members: Dr Aaron Peace/ Mary McGonigle (Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHSCT)); Dr Peter Sharpe/ Irene Knox (Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT)); Alison Murphy (Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT)); Dr Seamus O'Reilly (Northern Health and Social Care Trust, (NHSCT)); Dr David Hill, South East Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT); Karen Bailey (BSO); Christine Kennedy (DoH).

Non-Voting- Members: Charlene McQuillan (DoH)

In attendance: Voting members: Dr Brendan O'Brien (Chair of the Board and Health and Social Care Board (HSCB)); Paul Carlin (Deputy Chair and South East Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT)); Dr Nicola Armstrong (Public Health Agency (PHA)); Colm Burns (Patient Client Council, PCC); Dr Hilary Russell (Lay member)

Non-Voting- Members: Susan Campbell, Alan Harbinson; Neil Marsden; Martin Mayock, Siobhan McGrath (Secretariat); Naomi Mill (all BSO).

1. Attendance Review

The attendance log was noted.

Action: This is to be shared with the Health and Social Care Trust (HSC) Research Managers' Forum with a cover letter from the Chair of the Board highlighting the achievements of the service to-date, and the particular importance of the HSC Trusts' input being required into the Honest Broker Service's (HBS) profile and initiatives.

2. Action Log

The action log was reviewed and noted.

3. Chair's Overview

The Chair made the Board aware of a new strategic appointment at DoH, namely Dan West, Chief Digital Information Officer for Health and Social Care. Action: he is to be invited to meet the Board.

He also highlighted the BSO launch of the HBS safe haven and hub on Thursday 9th May 2019, which was attended and co-launched by himself and Professor Ian Young, DoH Chief Scientific Officer (CSO). There will be an article in BSO Business Matters newsletter.

There was also a launch of the Association of Professional Health Care Analytics (AphA) on 20 June 2019 at the HSC Informatics Professions Conference.

4. Minutes of last meeting:

The minutes of the previous board meeting of 1st March 2019, 19th meeting were reviewed. One change was requested with respect to removal of Martin Mayock as being in attendance. Action: The minutes can then be formally issued and published on the Honest Broker Service website.

5. Approval of revised TOR.

These need to indicate the agreed 5 year maximum term of office for Chair and Deputy Chair. Action: Revise and circulate the Board for ratification, then publish on the Honest Broker Service website.

6. Update on HBS Projects and outreach activities.

An update was given on research requests and non-research requests since the last Board meetings, as well as ongoing research projects. It was suggested that investment be considered in any future funding bids to improve the HBS website and for remote access to the safe haven. It was also reported that there was ongoing standardisation of data definitional issues across the UK.

7. Update on ADRC/HBS pilot and HDR-UK Initiatives.

The ADRC pilot was suspended due to a legal issue. There may be a means of continuing the collaboration through the Census Act via the Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILs) as long as the data analysis involved is longitudinal. This is being explored. It was also reported that a successful business case to HDR-UK had achieved £45,000 funding to invest in the BSO data warehouse. Core funding rather than project specific funding is still required for the HBS.

8. Student Placement (Data Science, Statistics) in HBS/Trusts

The Deputy Chair gave an update on this issue. Action: the Vice-Chair to involve the HBS in producing a paper on enabling student placement opportunities within HBS, particularly from areas such as Public Health and /or Maths, Statistics and Computing.

9. Honest Broker Service Appeals Panel.

The Board supported the suggested composition of the HBS appeals panel and requested that the suggested panel members are formally contacted about this. (Action: HBWG to write to appeals panel members)

10. Health Data Research UK (HDR UK) Innovation Hubs.

Prof. Mark Lawler (HDR UK) gave a presentation by telephone. There are opportunities for funding in the registry areas of cancer and respiratory illnesses for Northern Ireland. A bid closing date is 2nd July 2019. There would be an opportunity for infrastructure support for the HBS in the context of these bids. He advised the Board to consider where HBS should be in terms of partnership for this bid. HBS needs to be involved in any discussions. Will HBS be a progression of SAIL? It was emphasised to Prof. Lawler that HBS does not have a ready prepared repository of data information and needs investment to make it so. Prof Lawler advised that in any bid that HBS should make its current challenges clear, and its vision for the next two years.

Action: Chair of Board to urgently take forward.

11. Pathways to a Cancer Diagnosis Project – Introduction to the Health Foundation (Funders of the project)

MM highlighted the issue of re-use of HBS project datasets which had been brought into sharper focus with the Pathways research. A lot of effort and resource had been put into creating the linked dataset, including derived routes flag, which could be useful to future researchers. It was agreed that once options for continuing this work are further developed, a paper will be brought to the Board for their consideration.

Dr Sarah Dee (Assistant Director of Data Analytics)- Health Foundation gave a presentation to the Board. She highlighted that there are funding opportunities with Expressions of Interest for collaborative working in Autumn 2019. Some members of the Board will meet with her out-with the Board meeting to explore.
Action:

A paper is to be prepared for the Board on BSO legacy work with respect the Health Foundation cancer project. Action: MM

12. AOB

Queen's University Belfast had indicated its support for the HBS at recent event at Belfast City Hall.

The board discussed patient public involvement (PPI) and the HBS. The Patient Client Council (PCC) has a large contact database and the PCC Board member could assist in PPI but a steer on a defined patient or public audience would be needed. Action: HBWG to define.

The Deputy Chair through his role in the European MIDAS project informed the Board that the Basque country was to establish its equivalent of the HBS.

It was noted that Brendan G O'Neil was involved in secondary uses legislation.

Diane Anderson (Health Intelligence Manager) from the HSC Public Health Agency (PHA) is to present at the next HGBG. She should also present to SIG.

Signed by the Chair of the Honest Broker Governance Board:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bob', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Date: 29.08.2019