NHSBT Board

Blood Tech Modernisation Programme – Status Update

19th July 2022

Status: Official

1. Summary and Purpose of Paper

The Board is asked to note progress of the Programme

The programme continues to progress well and is on track to meet the targets set out in the 22/23 plan. The next set of converted code, which includes changes required for OBI to test all donors for Hep B core antigen (Anti HBc), is progressing through testing and remains on track for deployment in Sept 22. This will be the second of four releases planned to go live in this financial year.

To reinforce our efforts to recover the overall programme duration, we are working with Accenture to conduct a focused technical review of the programme which will begin in early July. Combined with our Simplification activities, targeted at reducing the scope of the conversion work, and our continuous improvement initiatives to improve efficiency. We will report progress in more detail at the September Board.

We are also progressing well with the NHSBT Data Insights (NDI) project which will provide the technology and foundation to get data into the hands of people who need it, when they need it, and not locked away in systems, spreadsheets and proprietary databases.

Our planned mitigations to improve our ability to attract and retain quality candidates (R144) are having a positive impact with recent recruitment within the Testing team. We should see this risk improve by the next Board.

Staff Engagement and Enablement remains very high at 5/6 and finances remain on track and within contingency.

2. Background

The BTM programme has been approved as a 5-year programme to deliver the stabilisation and security of blood IT set out in the Blood Technology Strategy. The programme has established a new blood technology product centre to:

1. Grow existing and establish new capabilities to deliver releases in months not years
2. Convert the application to a supported language (C#)
3. Re-platform the database from Mimer to a mainstream database
4. Enable access to real-time data for improved decision making (PowerBI)
5. Improve the integrations between Pulse and other applications (Donor Portal, OBOS, SO99, etc.)

The programme is now focussed on building the capability within the product centre and converting the application to a supported language.

3. Detail of report

We continue to make good progress on code conversion. The Bugfix for the March Release (Donor Management) was deployed successfully with no issues. The next release go-live is planned for Sept 22 and will deliver the converted Holds Management, Pack Lot Management, Lab Workload Management alongside some system admin changes. We are on track with delivering as per this year's Full Business Case.

Work has also started on the delivery plan for the next release to follow, which is targeted towards a go-live in January 2023.

Testing Team

Since we ended the contract with the Testing Partner, Edge, we have revised our internal Testing Team structure and ways of working.

To address our resourcing shortfall and build our in-house capability in this area we have three new team members joining in July, with further recruitment to follow for the remaining vacancies. If all team members are onboarded to plan this will present an improvement in our risk profile for the next reporting period (R144).

NHSBT Data Insights project (NDI)

The NDI project will provide the technology and foundation to get data into the hands of people who need it, when they need it, and not locked away in systems, spreadsheets and proprietary databases.

Since the last update the NDI Business Case has been approved by the BTM Programme Board and we have held our first Project Board. Work is progressing well with the technical preparations to enable us to start delivery and we are in the final stages of engaging with a new strategic partner.

Risk to overall Programme delivery

Interventions are underway to help recover the timelines for the overall Programme and to assure that we are taking the correct technical approach.

Since the last update, we have run the necessary G-Cloud process confirming Accenture to undertake a focused technical review of the programme; providing answers to the following questions:

- What needs to be true to bring another supplier into the mix (and how to do that)
- Validation of our estimating process for the C# conversion
- Assurance we are going about the development and testing process in the correct way

The Productivity and Simplification work is progressing with expected C# conversion effort savings still being quantified.

Programme Finance

FY22-23 finances are on track for the year with a forecast spend of £71k within contingency.

Sign off

Next Board report: September 2022. Next significant milestone: September '22 release which delivers Holds Management, Pack Lot Management, Lab Workload Management.

Author: Christie Ash, Programme Director

Responsible Director: Wendy Clark Chief Strategy, Digital and Information Officer

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