



## Summary of Implementation Steering group for Organ Utilisation (ISOU) Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023

Members and observers were welcomed to the fourth meeting of the Implementation Steering Group for Organ Utilisation (ISOU).

The key aim of the meeting was to discuss the progress made on ISOU Sub-Groups since the previous meeting in September.

### 1. Conflicts of Interest

No new conflicts of interest were declared.

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting and actions arising

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

### 3. ISOU Sub-Group Progress

Significant progress has been made on the ISOU subgroups since the last meeting. All Co-Chairs are in place except for one of the two Co-Chairs for the patient engagement Subgroup and the first meetings are due to start from November.

Ministers will be updated on progress before Christmas.

Nick Torpey will Co-Chair the Stakeholder Forum alongside Fiona Loud. The first meeting will take place on 29th November and membership will be finalised imminently.

The Forum will engage stakeholders across the UK. Membership of the Patient Engagement subgroup will be determined once the Co-Chairs are in place.

The terms of reference for the Xenotransplantation subgroup have been agreed and members are in place. The terms of reference will be discussed at the first meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December. It is anticipated the subgroup will meet regularly over the next twelve months, aiming to report to Ministers at the end of that timeframe.

DHSC is developing a proposal for a new research project to assess the ethics of xenotransplantation and most importantly, examine the public and patients' perceptions of the technology.

The MHRA and HTA will be represented on the subgroup. International observers have also enquired about joining the group to observe the discussions to inform their own consideration of xenotransplantation.

The first Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (H+I) meeting is taking place on 22nd November and the draft Terms of Reference have been shared, these will be discussed with members at the first meeting.

The group is aiming to provide recommendations to Ministers in summer 2024.

NHSBT is in the process of appointing a new H+I lead who will join the subgroup once in post.

The Trust Engagement subgroup is being co-chaired by Mark Cubbon and Chris Callaghan. The Co-Chairs are confirming what actions within Trusts will be in scope for engagement. A letter has been drafted and will be issued to all Trusts with a transplant programme to raise awareness of OUG and ISOU, the subgroup and the opportunity to be involved (whether as members or more broadly).

Terms of Reference and membership are being finalised and invites will be issued for a meeting in December.

Representatives from the Devolved Administrations will be kept informed of any action that involves correspondence with Transplant Units in their nations.

Shamik Ghosh and John Casey will co-chair the subgroup focusing on Assessment and Recovery Centres (ARCs) and approaches for adopting proven innovation. The group will undertake a stock-take of action underway and make recommendations on next steps.

Jessica Jones was confirmed as a Co-Chair of the Patient Engagement subgroup. ISOU Co-Chairs are continuing to identify a second Co-Chair for the group. The remit is being developed and will be agreed with the Co-Chairs once both are in place.

Membership and the first meeting date will be confirmed in due course.

#### **4. Update on progress – NHSE**

NHSE is continuing to identify additional capacity for ISOU work. At a joint meeting between NHSBT and NHSE in September, shared priorities were discussed alongside responsibilities for providers. Subgroups were also discussed and there was agreement on the need for a digital/IT subgroup in the next round of developments.

NHSE is exploring how to align ISOU work with workforce teams.

NHSE is planning a desk-top exercise to review the data provided by NHSBT for the cardiothoracic review recommendation.

After discussion, the group agreed that there is a need to drive progress on the cardiothoracic review recommendation as there are issues in the service as noted in the OUG report and levels of concern have been expressed both by patient and clinical communities. This had recently been raised at a meeting of the NHSBT Cardiothoracic Transplant Patient Group.

The ISOU Co-Chairs raised the potential for an information gathering exercise to inform and facilitate the cardiothoracic review to be carried out by NHSE commissioning. This could make use of international cardiothoracic expertise. The group agreed the ISOU Secretariat should continue to explore this option and liaise with relevant ISOU members to develop Terms of Reference for the work.

DHSC and NHSBT placed on record their support for NHSE in delivering this specific OUG recommendation.

#### **5. Update on progress - NHSBT**

NHSBT continue to support ISOU work across a range of areas:

Renal Collaboratives are established and work to establish Liver Collaboratives is underway.

Enhanced Recovery After Surgery work is progressing and will be supporting a more patient focused service.

Clinical Leads for Organ Utilisation (CLUs) are in place and are proving to be a success; their importance in taking forward a number of OUG recommendations was underlined. DHSC and NHSBT are discussing future funding for CLUs.

NHSBT is pausing some projects whilst ISOU subgroups are being established but are fully

supportive of the work of the subgroups.

There is a Perfusion Summit taking place on 3rd November, which will address some of the areas in two recommendations from the OUG on innovation. The meeting is jointly run by the British Transplantation Society and NHSBT.

## **6. Scottish Government Organ Transplant Aftercare and Support Survey**

The Scottish Donation and Transplantation Plan (2021-26) is in place and aligns with the OUG recommendations where appropriate. Implementation will be overseen by the Scottish Donation and Transplantation Group.

Two consultations are in progress:

One is patient focused, providing a post-pandemic look at how patients (aged 16+) are experiencing services. It opened on 25th September and will close on 29th December. The results will be shared at the Scottish Transplantation and Donation meeting next year.

The second is clinician focused, looking at how clinicians use telemedicine for transplant consultations as an alternative to attending a clinic. The consultation has closed and analysis is underway.

The findings will be shared with ISOU, the Stakeholder Forum and the Patient Engagement subgroup once available.

## **7. Implementation and communication plans**

An Implementation Plan is being developed and will include timings for each OUG recommendation.

The plan will underpin future updates to Ministers and include key performance indicators for each recommendation as requested by the Secretary of State.

Reflecting the national and international interest in the work of ISOU, members were asked to notify the ISOU Secretariat with details of any talks or presentations they are asked to give in future where the work of the OUG and ISOU can be raised.

The ISOU Secretariat will produce a generic slide pack to support members in speaking at events.

Relevant papers will continue to be shared on the ISOU website.

## **8. Next steps**

Next steps were agreed as:

- DHSC will continue to progress the ISOU subgroups and provide an update on ISOU work to Ministers, including the need to make progress on recommendation 5.
- NHSE and NHSBT will progress activities and provide an update at the February ISOU meeting.

**Date of next meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**