



## Summary of Implementation Steering group for Organ Utilisation (ISOU) Meeting, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

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

The key aim of the meeting was to obtain an update on progress from DHSC (specifically with regards to ISOU subgroups), NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) and NHS England (NHSE).

### 1. Conflicts of Interest

One potential conflict was declared and the register was updated.

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

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

### 3. ISOU Final Sub-Group Proposals

A landscape paper was presented to clarify how ISOU and the subgroups fit into the existing organ utilisation landscape, alongside other existing working groups, as well as to clarify the arrangements for governance, assurance and stakeholder engagement.

It was confirmed that governance will lead directly to Ministers, subgroups will kickstart new work and assure existing work of other groups where appropriate, and stakeholder engagement will take care not to duplicate approaches given the number of different stakeholder (particularly patient) groups in place.

It was clarified that the Stakeholder Forum would follow the approach of the OUG Stakeholder Forum. Membership proposals will be circulated as soon as the Co-Chairs are confirmed.

It was confirmed that Ministers would be regularly updated on ISOU's work, particularly when there was significant progress to report or if a steer is required.

Information about subgroups would be made publicly available on the ISOU website, starting with the landscape paper.

Co-Chairs for each subgroup have been approached and at least one Co-Chair will be a member of ISOU with responsibility to report back to the group.

It was noted that there is a need to keep all four nations involved in many of the discussions including those around Histo-compatibility and Immunogenetics (H+I) as the pace of change may differ across the home nations. It was confirmed that representatives from all four nations will be invited to join all the ISOU subgroups as observers.

It was confirmed that the Xenotransplantation subgroup will scope out the different options for xenotransplantation. It was noted that understanding and testing the public appetite is a key consideration and there is likely to be significant interest in this area.

It was confirmed that the remit for the subgroups will be steered by the OUG report recommendations. Anything that goes further than the recommendations will be out of scope.

#### **4. Update on progress – DHSC**

Ministers had been informed of the progress made over the summer, including the encouraging progress reported by members at July's ISOU meeting and the plans to confirm and finalise arrangements for the ISOU subgroups.

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

A Meeting was held within NHSBT to explore trust engagement activity. This included the dissemination of data to Trusts, including transplant activity (based on the Organ Specific reports).

NHSBT have established a patient information steering group to explore how to improve information that is made available for patients. The website has been updated to make this easier for patients to access.

Clinical Leads for Organ Utilisation (CLUs) are in place and work is underway to re-engage them.

Transplant Collaboratives are being established.

A monothematic meeting is planned with the British Transplantation Society (BTS) to look at aspects of machine perfusion of donor organs.

NHSBT are establishing a smaller working group within the Clinical Team to drive activity for ISOU.

NHSBT is ready to support further work on recommendation 5 (cardiothoracic review).

#### **6. Update on progress – NHSE**

NHSBT will advise NHSE on the best international comparison data to use to inform work on developing the case for change for the cardiothoracic review.

Discussions are ongoing to identify additional resources to implement the NHSE workstreams.

NHSE and NHSBT have instigated regular catch-up meetings to ensure that any intelligence about transplant issues is shared effectively.

The terms of reference for the UK-wide quarterly Transplant Commissioners' Meeting are being updated to incorporate the ISOU work.

NHSBT and NHSE will hold a planning meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September to discuss ISOU projects.

A proposal and terms of reference for a Transplant Oversight Group (between NHSE and NHSBT) have been drafted and will be discussed at the September meeting.

NHSE has commenced work to identify gaps in digital infrastructure and will explore how to address them – looking to use existing resources/ initiatives where possible.

Members flagged the need to include paediatric services and consider the entire care pathway in the cardiothoracic review. Members also asked how patients will be involved in the work. Members acknowledged NHSE's capacity issues, but felt it was important to agree timescales and the scope of the review to help engage Trusts and support future planning in transplant centres.

#### **7. Update on progress – Stakeholder Forum**

Co-Chairs have been appointed and members will provide the Co-Chairs with suggestions for individuals to join the Forum.

There will be a specific focus on ensuring appropriate diversity of representation in setting up this key group.

Connections will be explored with the NHSE Healthcare Inequalities Improvement team to support on ethnicity and patient engagement.

## **8. Other updates on progress**

The British Transplantation Society supported interviews and briefings with the BBC regarding the national liver transplant allocation algorithm, demonstrating the evidence base and patient representative involvement in designing the algorithm.

The media interest was a good opportunity to raise the profile and importance of the work of the OUG and ISOU.

## **9. Next steps**

Next steps were agreed as:

- DHSC will publish the landscape document on the ISOU website, followed by details of the ISOU subgroups.
- Members will provide comments on subgroup remits and memberships once these are confirmed.
- DHSC will progress the subgroups and Stakeholder Forum and consider patient diversity throughout.
- NHSE will provide an update on progress following the meeting with NHSBT in September.
- DHSC will provide an update on progress to the Minister.

**Date of next meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023**