

**Minutes of the National Administrations Sub Committee  
of the NHS Blood and Transplant Board held on Thursday 22 December  
2016, telecon 0800 032 8069**

**Present:** Léonie Austin (**LA**)  
Ian Bateman (**IB**)  
John Forsythe (**JF**)  
Louise Fullwood (**LF**)  
Sally Johnson (**SJ**)  
Jeremy Monroe (**JM**)  
John Pattullo (**JP**) (Chair)

**In attendance:** Heather O'Shea (Minutes)  
Wayne Lawley (Observing)

**Apologies:** Keith Rigg (**KR**)

## **1. For review and recommendation to the Board**

### **1.1. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes were agreed.

### **1.2. Review of actions from the last meeting**

Actions from the previous meeting were completed. JP updated the Committee on discussions with Huw Williams regarding Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services support in Northern Ireland and Scotland. Huw will initially take forward further discussions on this with colleagues from Northern Ireland.

## **2. Discussion Topics**

2.1 Update on Brexit and the role of the Committee, in line with revised Terms of Reference.

IB gave an overview of discussions and ongoing work with the Department of Health on the potential impact on NHSBT policy areas, following the UK referendum decision to leave the EU.

IB stated that there had been an increase in activity in recent months in terms of NHSBT contributions to the Department of Health and other committee evidence. IB attends weekly telecons with other Arm's Length Bodies and NHSBT is currently undertaking work to assess potential workforce implications.

**ACTION** IB to invite Paul Macnaught (DH Director Health Science and Bioethics) to a Committee meeting later this year to share his perspective on Brexit implications.

## **3. Activity Reports**

The Non-Executive national lead for Northern Ireland and Wales introduced the activity report for their Administration. Sally Johnson introduced the activity report for Scotland.

### **3.1 Northern Ireland**

LF updated the Committee on the December meeting scheduled with Health Minister Michelle O'Neill MLA. The Minister was unfortunately called away at short notice but a very productive meeting took place with Dr Michael McBride (Chief Medical Officer), Alastair Campbell (Deputy Director for Secondary Care) and their teams.

The meeting with Dr McBride included discussion of regenerative medicine and the future of pathology services in Northern Ireland. As a result of this, Huw Williams has contacted relevant policy colleagues in Northern Ireland to take forward discussion of the NI pathology consultation, advanced cell therapies and NHSBT's Tissue and Eye Services portfolio.

Alastair Campbell referenced the NI Clinical Advisory Group Meeting in October and the contribution from NHSBT regarding communications activity and research on organ donation and public behaviour change. This contribution was well received and LA informed the Committee that she is progressing further conversations with NI colleagues to scope other opportunities to work collaboratively going forward.

The Committee noted that the lifetime ban on the donation of blood by men who have had sex with men had been replaced by a one-year deferral in September, bringing Northern Ireland into line with England, Scotland and Wales.

LF informed the Committee that Karin Jackson, who was recently appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service, had visited NHSBT facilities to learn more about our manufacturing, business and DTS functions, as well as the Core Systems Modernisation (CSM) programme and other IT projects.

### **3.2 Scotland**

SJ provided an update on the introductory meeting with Aileen Campbell MSP, Minister for Public Health and Sport, in November. This meeting included discussion of organ donation within the context of the Minister's wider portfolio, and the importance of encouraging the public to share their donation decision with others.

The Committee also discussed the Scottish Government's recent launch of a consultation on ways of increasing organ and tissue donation, including a soft opt out system. NHSBT will submit a formal response to the consultation, which closes on 14 March 2017.

The Committee noted that Scotland is performing well with a dedicated Regional Manager for organ donation.

### **3.3 Wales**

The Committee discussed promotional activity surrounding the first anniversary of deemed consent for organ donation within Wales, including a press event at the Cardiff Transplant Unit.

JM relayed feedback on the complexities of separating the effect of legislation change from the communication activity around it.

SJ stated that researchers at Bangor University were compiling statistics and qualitative research on the experiences of potential donor families in Wales, which was expected to be published in autumn 2017.

JM stated that Specialist Nurses-Organ Donation (SNODs) in Wales will continue to be supported by both NHSBT and the Welsh Government, particularly in their efforts to ensure that instances of express consent are honoured by potential donor families.

The Committee also noted the positive media coverage prompted by the BBC Wales documentary about organ donation and the new opt-out system, called 'The Greatest Gift', which was aired in December.

LA updated the Committee on a data transfer issue related to the All Wales Blood Service launch. A software issue has been identified whereby a small number of English blood donor records were included in the transfer of data to the Welsh Blood Service. This secure data was encrypted, and remained within the NHS system; however some donors were contacted by the Welsh Blood Service in error as a result. The integrity of the data remained intact and the issue has now been rectified. LA will liaise with relevant colleagues in Wales on this matter and will notify other relevant parties of our actions and resolution of this issue.

#### **4. Organ Donation and Transplantation**

##### 4.1 Update from the ODT Sustainable Funding Group

SJ reported that there had not been any recent meetings of the Sustainable Funding Group; however consideration was being given by the UK health departments to the NHSBT business case for the DCD heart transplant programme. It is expected that the outcome of this proposal may be known by the end of March 2017.

SJ stated that colleagues at the Department of Health are currently considering the ODT commissioning model in light of the Triennial Review of NHSBT, including whether the responsibility for commissioning should move from DH to NHS England. The Triennial Review included a recommendation to develop a proposal on the future of ODT funding in England and recognised that any future funding model must enable the effective management of ODT across the whole of the UK.

#### **5. Developments in England which may have an impact**

##### 5.1 Changes in the DH Structure

The Committee noted ongoing change as a result of DH personnel changes and reduction in workforce. JP informed the Committee that he and Ian Trenholm were keen to explore different ways of working with the Department in light of the current workload and their reduced capacity.

As further announcements on personnel changes within policy teams have been announced this month, JP has invited Mark Davies (DH Director with sponsorship responsibility for NHSBT) to contribute to the next Committee meeting in March to discuss the new DH structure.

#### **6. Any Other Business**

JP thanked Heather O'Shea for her secretariat support to the Committee as she will shortly be leaving NHSBT.

**7. Date of the Next Meeting**

Wednesday 29 March 2017, 5.15-6.45pm

Belfast (Platinum meeting room, Radisson Blu Hotel Belfast)

Or via Telecon for those not attending the Board meeting the following day – 0800

032 8069 - Participant code: 17775430 then #