

**Minutes of the National Administrations Sub Committee  
of the NHS Blood and Transplant Board held on Wednesday 29 March 2017,  
Radisson Blu Hotel, Belfast**

Or via Telecon for those not attending the Board meeting the following

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

**In attendance:** Cathy Allen (**CA**) (Minutes)  
Mark Davies (**MD**)

**Apologies:** John Forsythe (**JF**)

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

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

The minutes were approved.

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

Actions from the previous meeting were completed. [Post meeting note: Paul Macnaught (DH Director, EU, International & Public Health System) has confirmed he will join the 5 October 2017 meeting].

LA updated the Committee on a data transfer issue related to the All Wales Blood Service launch. The Information Commissioners Office (ICO) review of this potential breach was that no further action was needed as the data had stayed within an NHS body at all times. JP asked whether the systemic problem that had caused the issue has since been resolved, LA confirmed that it had.

## **2 Developments in England which may have an impact**

Mark Davies, DH Director - Population Health, joined the Committee via telcon to discuss the recent changes in the DH structure.

There has been a 30% reduction in the DH administration budget and the headcount has been reduced from c.1,800 to c.1,300.

The Department has been structured into five groups:

1. Global and Public Health
2. Community Care
3. Acute Care and Workforce
4. Chief Scientific Adviser's Group
5. Finance and Group Operations

KR asked whether loss of organisational knowledge was an issue. MD acknowledged that there would be some loss of knowledge as a result of the number of longstanding staff that had left the Department and assured the Committee that there had been good handovers to manage this risk.

Jeremy Mean (DH Deputy Director, Health Ethics), NHSBT's sponsor, is looking to establish a proportionate sponsorship approach within the new structure. JP stated that NHSBT would be happy to work with DH to test different sponsorship models. It would be important to consider the impact of any changes on the other health administrations and issues which cross borders such as emergency planning and business continuity.

LF asked if there was any update following the recent media speculation that the Secretary of State was due to announce a consultation looking at merging nine health regulators including the General Medical Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

**ACTION** CA to clarify whether a consultation has been formally launched or is planned.

### **3 Triennial Review Recommendations 7 and 9 (specific)**

LA presented a paper setting out proposals to address recommendations 7 and 9 of the Triennial Review.

3.1 Recommendation 7 - NHSBT and Welsh Government officials review information flow to assure themselves that they are systematically sighted on all key areas of work and upcoming developments. The Triennial Review was clear that this was intended as an improvement to the existing system rather than a fundamental change.

In discussion with Welsh Government officials the suggested areas of improvement included drawing up a framework agreement similar to the one in place with DH and reviewing the provision of whole Wales data as part of regular performance management.

SJ noted that our performance data is currently produced to reflect the ODT team structure meaning that South Wales and North Wales are reported separately.

The Committee endorsed the need to embed good engagement at all levels, consider the impact on Wales at the early stages of policy or strategy development and ensure effective two way feedback between the lead non Executive Director for Wales and Welsh Government officials.

The Committee agreed that key representatives would meet with Welsh Government officials to address all the issues raised and agree improvements on the basis of a draft framework agreement.

**ACTION** LA/JM to request Welsh officials draw up a draft framework, based on the NHSBT/DH model, setting out their requirements. Following this a meeting will be arranged to discuss and finalise the document and ensure all concerns have been addressed.

3.2 Recommendation 9 - The National Administrations Committee (NAC) of the NHSBT Board works with the government officials from each of the four nations, as well as the respective national commissioners, to identify and advise the NHSBT Board on future policy divergence.

The Committee agreed the recommendation to extend the Sustainable Funding Group's remit to include specific responsibility for considering policy developments on organ donation

and transplantation in each of the four countries, the possible operational implications and to provide advice to the NAC. A paper will go to the next Sustainable Funding Group meeting.

The Committee agreed that for blood, tissues and stems cells advice could be drawn from already established groups such as the UK Forum and the UK Stem Cell Strategic Forum.

#### **4. Activity Reports**

Each Non-Executive national lead introduced the activity report for their Administration.

##### **4.1 Northern Ireland**

At the time of the meeting no formal Government was in place.

LA highlighted that discussions are underway on providing support for organ donation behaviour change campaign activity and stakeholder engagement in Northern Ireland.

##### **4.2 Scotland**

KR noted that Scottish organ donation rates continue to do well without any change in legislation. We await the outcome of the public consultation on organ and tissue donation that closed on 14 March.

##### **4.3 Wales**

LA highlighted that discussions are underway on providing support for organ donation behaviour change campaign activity. Work is also underway with Welsh Government officials to understand the implications of the Welsh Language Standard for NHSBT. These are expected to take 12-18 months to work through.

#### **5 Current Issues**

##### **5.1 Organ Donation and Transplantation**

SJ updated on her attendance at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences Summit, the subsequent statement and recommendations on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism. SJ is currently awaiting a date to talk to the UK anti-slavery commissioner. SJ will then write to the four health departments seeking formal support and sign off.

SJ also advised that the Sustainable Funding Group advised on their preferred funding model for organ donation and transplantation for the future and a proposal is going to Ministers for decision.

##### **5.2 Brexit Update**

IB confirmed that the potential impact of Brexit on the transplant workforce has been raised. The Brexit ALB group has set up a number of different work streams including: Regulation, Procurement of goods/services and Workforce. IB is satisfied that we are engaged where we need to be and a corporate risk register has been set up to capture issues as they arise.

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

None

#### **7. Date of the Next Meeting**

Date for next meeting: Friday 30 June 2017, 4:00-5:00pm

Via Telecon – 0800 032 8069 - Participant code: 17775430 then #