

Minute of the 26th Honest Broker Governance Board Meeting (HBGB)

Date of meeting: 12th November 2020

By Zoom videoconference.

Present:

Voting members:

Dr Michael Quinn (MQ) (Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) and Chair of the Honest Broker Governance Board (HBGB)); Dr Aaron Peace (AP) (Western HSC Trust) and Deputy Chair HBGB); Dr Hilary Russell (HR) (Lay Member); Dr Nicola Armstrong (NA) (Public Health Agency (PHA)); Laura Moore (South East HSC Trust); Dr Seamus O'Reilly (SOR) (Northern HSC Trust), Irene Knox (IK) (Southern HSC Trust); Lisa Whyte (LW)(HSCB); Siobhán Morgan (Department of Health, DoH); David Bryce (DB) (Business Services Organisation, BSO)

Non- Voting members:

From BSO: Alan Harbinson (AB), Martin Mayock (MM), Rita McAuley (RM); Susan Campbell (SC). Charlene McQuillan (CM) (DoH);

In attendance:

Dr Siobhan McGrath (BSO) for purposes of the minute; Fiona McNally (BSO) for technical videoconference support (HBGB Secretariat.); Frances Burns Project Manager, Administrative Data Research Centre Northern Ireland (ADRCNI), Centre for Public Health, Queen's University Belfast (QUB) for SAIL update; Dr Alan McMichael QUB, Centre of Public Health for Research project presentation.

1. Apologies were noted from the following:

Voting Members:

Alison Murphy (AM) (Belfast HSC Trust); Colm Burns (Patient Client Council, PCC); Neil Martin (NM) (Northern HSC Trust); Mark Bradley (MB) (BSO); Dr Peter Sharpe (Southern HSC Trust)

Non-Voting Members:

None

2. Chair's Update

The Health Data Research UK (HDR UK) National portal has been updated with BSO Honest Broker Service (HBS) data. Sprint 2 intensive care data is being processed? Funding from the HDR UK for £750,000 is available until end of March for uses including the HBS. He is working with Dan West (DoH, Chief Digital Information Officer) to make the HBS world-class. There are many initiatives in the pipeline. The investment from the HDR UK will help with implementing the Northern Ireland secondary data uses legislation and other governance issues. A number of urgent COVID-19 initiatives are being taken forward and will involve the HBS in the near future.

Update on the Northern Ireland General Practitioner Intelligence Platform (GPIP):

Researchers should be directed to the HBS, GPIP and HBS have established processes for handling requests. However, the long term plan is that the GP and secondary care data will be on same platform.

AH is involved in process testing for a dementia project within the HBS and BSO data warehouse.

3. Minutes of the last meeting:

These were ratified and may be published on the HBS website. Amend Peter Sharpe to Dr Peter Sharpe.

4. Matters arising:

None.

5. Presentation to the HBGB by Dr Alan McMichael (researcher)

A presentation entitled “Dementia analytics: Using big data to understand dementia in Northern Ireland” was given by Dr Alan McMichael to the HBGB on analysis of data for dementia projects from the HBS.

The Chair of the HBGB congratulated him and the team on their findings, scientific publications and the dissemination of their important findings. It was very encouraging to see important and relevant research outputs from the analysis of the HBS data.

6. Update on Administrative Data Research Network (ADRC) (now Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study led (NILS) and Health Data Research UK (HDR UK) projects (AH):

With regard to the Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS) project, there will be no update until the New Year. Other project updates were covered in the next agenda item (7).

7. Update on SAIL(ADRC) (Frances Burns (FB) Project Manager, ADRCNI, Centre for Public Health QUB)

FB informed the HBGB that the joint HBS and HDR UK pilot project is now ready to progress from a pilot to a live service. This will enable researchers to have remote access to projects using the HBS data via SAIL. She has been contact with the Privacy Advisory Committee (PAC) (informal discussion), which is supportive, and MQ (Chair of the HBGB), Professor Ian Young (Chief Scientific Officer for Northern Ireland and the SIRO for this project) has gained Information Governance HSC Trust lead support in principle at the Regional Information Assurance Group this week. Changes to the HBS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) need now to be implemented.

MM informed the HBGB that the Honest Broker Working Group (HBWG) would provide support for this by producing a formal paper to support all necessary governance changes. This would provide assurance and context to the HSC Trusts for the necessary MOU changes. CMQ noted that support from ICAG would also be a necessary governance step, and that any agreement from the PAC should be included in the governance paper. FB offered assistance in terms of providing any necessary supporting paperwork in the development of this governance paper.

The Chair also informed the HBGB that Dr Michael Mc Bride (Northern Ireland Chief Medical Officer) will also be writing to the HSC Trust IG leads and Medical Directors to ask for their support for urgent Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) supported COVID-19 research projects involving Northern Ireland. The PAC will be consulted on pertinent projects as they go through the system. HR asked when the HBGB would be expected to provide governance approval for these important projects. The Chair expects these to come to the HBGB in the near future.

Action: the HBWG to produce a governance paper to support the process of the MOU changes.

Dr Quinn (Chair) left the meeting and handed over to the Deputy Chair Dr Peace.

8. Update on the HBS projects and outreach activities, Research Activity Report

RM gave an update on research projects happening within the HBS or in preparation. SC gave an update on non-research study projects and COVID-19 related queries.

AH commented that SC has been preparing BSO data warehouse datasets. Metadata has been published on HDR UK platform. E.g. Pillar Data.

BSO is ready to advertise its availability to researchers in a few weeks' time. Eventually all Pillar COVID-19 testing data will be in the BSO data warehouse.

9. Review of the HBGB Action Log:

This was reviewed and updated. The Deputy Chair (AP) asked for Patient Public Involvement to be a specific agenda item for the next HBGB.

10. Any Other Business

AH informed the HBGB that the HBS Safe Haven had to close again due to the second COVID-19 lockdown. He anticipates that it will reopen, once government guidelines change. He would keep the HBGB informed.

AH anticipates that with changes in the MOU we can move to remote access in the medium term future.

The HBGB asked if the HBS is able to link with mortality data from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

AH verified that there is an existing agreement to get quarterly updates from the NISRA.

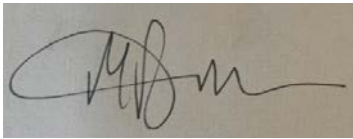
There has been some delay due to pressures of COVID-19 but this will change in the near future.

If an HBS project involves mortality data, the HBS will also inform the NISRA.

11. Dates of next meetings

The dates for 2021 were noted and confirmed.

Signed by Dr Michael Quinn (Chair of the HBGB) and Dr Aaron Peace (Deputy Chair of the HBGB)

Signature:  Chair Date: 04th February 2021

Signature:  Deputy Chair Date: 04th February 2021