

# **COVID-19 Digital Co-ordination & Prioritisation Meeting**

## **Minutes of meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 1pm**

### **In Attendance:**

**Dan West - Chair**

**Claire Buchner  
Eddie Ritson  
Stephen Stewart  
Brendan O'Neill  
Joy Beaumont  
Linda McRandle  
Penny Hobson  
Katey Gunning  
David Bryce  
Eddie O'Neill  
Nadene Aspel  
Austin Tanney  
Charlene McQuillan  
Lesley McGrann  
Stephen Smith  
Helen Clarke**

### **Apologies:**

**N/A**

Dan welcomed all to the meeting and wished everyone a happy new year.

For discussion today:

- Highlight Report
- LFTs
- Contact Tracing
- Approval of Hospital Visiting Discovery Document
- Student placement through CDIO Group, DoH

### **Highlight Report**

It was agreed that the Highlight Report would be moved to a monthly basis as the Digital Cell meeting had been moved to fortnightly.

Linda took the Group through the Highlight Report.

### **Issues Register:**

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- Joy mentioned there was impact on recovery certs, etc due to the change of policy for testing from PCR to LFT. Eddie O commented on the lack of availability of PCR tests. This has implications for Covid Certs as Recovery Certificates cannot be provided on the basis of a self-reported LFT result. Brendan mentioned the need to get this information up on NI Direct website.  
**ACTION:** Linda to take forward re NI Direct Website.

- There was a discussion around capturing LFT results in a timely manner. Eddie R mentioned there are concerns around contact tracing and how to feed in NMABs and antivirals. Joy mentioned that DoH had mentioned that the recording of LFTs will be handed digitally. These are little issues but have a big impact. Joy and Linda to discuss offline the issue of the time lag in receipt of PCR test results.
- Charlene mentioned the policy around LFTs and the public facing message would lie with the relevant division in DoH. Eddie O mentioned Elaine Colgan in the Department is aware of the problem around recovery certs. Eddie O mentioned also about the option for sporting events for a digital reader for domestic use. He will come back to this group with costs next week.  
**ACTION:** Eddie O to follow up next week re costs for digital reader re App.
- Dan mentioned that due to the change of policy re LFTs Kainos had been asked to explore the changes to the platform. In relation to costings, he sought confirmation funding was available. Joy mentioned funding would be covered by the PHA. Penny added that PHA could simply be billed for work done.
- Charlene mentioned that any updates of digital Certs will require a review of the Information Governance documentation.

#### Continuation of the Highlight Report

- Data quality is still ongoing.
- There is an absence of UK and DA policy for vaccines administered outside the UK and this impacts on the ability of NI residents who have received some vaccinations overseas to receive further vaccinations in this country. Claire reported that her understanding was that a message had gone out to GPs to the effect that if they were satisfied that the evidence of initial vaccinations received outside NI was bone fide, they should proceed to administer further doses where required. Eddie O highlighted the need for rigour to ensure the integrity of the arrangements. There is also an issue around capture of this information in a citizen's medical record.
- Dan mentioned it might be good to raise this issue at next week's CMO workshop. Claire mentioned she will raise at her digital meeting which will then be escalated to the Oversight Board.
- Dan mentioned about the POs to suppliers for the CCS. Eddie O mentioned the table had been sent to Tracey McCaig for sign off. Stephen Stewart mentioned it would be completed by end of the week.
- Claire talked the group through the report on data quality. There was a discussion around quality issues, mismatched records and vaccines from different jurisdictions. The situation seemed to be getting slightly better and it was noted that there is a process in place to address the issue.

Upon review there was no changes required to the Risk Register. Dan asked the Group to have a look at the Highlight Reporting pack and advise of any amendments/or actions required to Joy/Linda as soon as possible.

**ACTION:** All to look at the Risk Register and advise of any comments/closed actions.

## Contact Tracing

- Dan mentioned he was on a call earlier with Kainos re contact tracing and there was a discussion around the potential impact on the live MS Dynamics solution if resource heavy operational reports were run frequently. Joy mentioned there was a review over the last 7 days of case numbers re close contacts. Austin mentioned he can ask a PHA colleague to follow up.

**ACTION:** Austin to follow up with PHA

## Hospital Visiting Discovery Document

Eddie O had issued the Discovery document and had received comments back and was looking approval today of the document from the Group.

- Nadene mentioned she had sent the document to her service people to comment and feedback. Eddie O had mentioned he had 3 stakeholder meetings but will clarify Trust attendees with Nadene.
- Brendan mentioned about the need to make sure sufficient resources are in place to handle queries as complaints will go to Minister/MLAs who will then seek urgent actions/ responses. Eddie O said that user complaints and queries should be dealt with by Trusts.
- David mentioned about the bed flow systems fed by PAS.

The Group approved the Discovery document. It will need completion of the business case and subsequent allocation of funding securing of contracts.

## Student Placement through CDIO Group, DoH.

Dan mentioned that CDIO Group had secured a student, Mark Montgomery, for 3 months, who will be starting next Monday. Mark will carry out a research projects in the factors affecting the uptake of digital services in older people. Dan asked the group to make him welcome and to give a small bit of time and guidance for him. Eddie O mentioned he could help him with a few things including work started by Big Motive and he could get involved in the work being done on proxy users. Dan to introduce Mark.

## AOB

Eddie R mentioned that the NMaBs agenda had been busy. He thanked David and the BSO team for their help to deliver an initial solution. Dan thanked all involved in this work for their achievements so far.

Meeting came to a close.

**NEXT MEETING:** 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 @ 1pm

**ACTIONS:**

<b>NO</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>OWNER</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
1	Update NI Direct with information on the arrangements for the issue of Recovery certs in light of change in policy on testing	Linda	
2	Follow up next week re costs for digital reader re App	Eddie O	
3	Discuss the issue of time lag in receipt of PCR test results	Joy and Linda	