

OpenSAFELY Oversight Board - 25/01/2024

Agenda and minutes

Attendees	<p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jeni Tennison - Connected by Data <p>Bennett Institute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Ben Goldacre - Director and OpenSAFELY PI• Seb Bacon - Chief Technology Officer• Pete Stokes - Director of Platform Development• Amir Mehrkar - Head of IG and external relationships <p>Board Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mark Coley - GP, BMA• Alex Freeman - Executive Director, Winton Centre for Risk & Evidence Communication, University of Cambridge• Kevin Minier - Expert patient representative• Laurie Tomlinson - Professor, LSHTM• Sam Smith - MedConfidential• Imran Khan - Deputy RCGP• Paul Atkinson - RCGP• Alex Eavis - Chief Product Officer, EMIS <p>Invited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laura Bellingham, Associate Director of NHS Services, NHSE• Michael Chapman- Director of Research and Clinical Trials, NHSE• Nin Sandhu- Head of Innovation & Collaboration, NHSE <p>Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liam Hart - Research Administrator; Bennett Institute <p>Apologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chris Bates - Director of Research and Analytics, TPP• Shaun O'Hanlon - CMO, EMIS• Rony Arafin - Chief Operating Officer- ApHA CIC-• Stephen Evans - Professor of Pharmacoepidemiology, LSHTM• Tariq Khokhar - Head of Data for Science & Health, Wellcome Trust <p>OpenSAFELY Oversight Board TOR</p>
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Item	15:00 - 17:00	Topic and Documents	Assigned to
1	15:00 -15:05	<p>Introduction from the chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Request for AOB - no requests. ● Ratify previous minutes - Fully accepted. ● Group requested that minutes from this and future meetings be finalised and published at the earliest opportunity, not at the point of the next meeting. ● Review of actions - complete and can be removed. 	Jeni
2	15:05 - 15:35	<p>Team Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IG - Main focus is the Data Access Policy, which is 99% done. This task details how Type 1 Opt-Out (T1OO) data is excluded from the OpenSAFELY database. ● Funding - Interest in the use of OpenSAFELY in new settings is growing, with projects being developed to use it with retail and education data. The Nuffield Foundation and XTX Markets are funding a joint project with National Institute of Teaching , that seeks to analyse data held by schools. Other ventures include a bid to ESRC to investigate use of OpenSAFELY to enable access to retail data. The team have also secured, or are close to securing, funding for a number of research projects, including from NIHR for a project on pregnancy data, and project on “improved outcomes in rheumatology” and “winter pressures”. ● Staffing - Two researchers have recently left the team, to take up new roles internationally. ● To support NHSE, a PPIE Lead, a Data Security Manager, a Senior Programme Manager and an additional Product Manager will be hired. ● Outputs - Four recently published and seven in peer review. ● Tech - ehrQL was formally launched late last year, and blog posts explaining the query language have been circulated. ● Internal dashboard technologies have now been established, enabling us to specify the types of data we’d like to gather, such as operational metrics. In 	Ben

		<p>due course, there will be a dashboard available to this group that lists KPI's.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PPIE - The group continues to have good discussions, by helping inform the work we do, as we grow and broaden the service into non-COVID research. Input has also been helpful in developing future OS governance forums and in informing research projects. ● New members of the PPIE group will be recruited this year, after a few representatives have now left. 	
3	15:35 - 15:50	<p>NHSE Contract update -</p> <p>Contract signed with NHSE late November 2023, with BI running the service for three years, at around 50 projects per year.</p> <p>Current work is concentrating on the contract implementation and ensuring all the security and IG stipulations are met as a priority.</p> <p>The Contract states that BI will gradually hand over the operation of parts of the service to NHSE staff, enabling us to put more resource onto new tech developments aligned to NHSE priorities.</p>	Pete
4	15:50 - 16:00	<p>New NHSE work, overlap of Board/Governance clarification</p> <p>NHSE are establishing new governance for the NHS England OpenSAFELY Service funded by the contract, which will complement this group, specifically on development and growth of the tools.</p> <p>Current members of this group may find that they are invited to both groups, which would be a significant call on their time, and may choose to prioritise one over the other based on interest and expertise. These changes are expected to take place over the course of the year.</p>	Pete
5	16:00 - 16:05	BREAK	
6	16:05 - 16:15	Legal basis for non-COVID -	Laura

		<p>Attention is now focused upon expanding the framework beyond a COVID-19 focus. This will be approached by analysing the 'use cases' or 'spec requirements' this new overarching framework requires, and adding to it when new needs are identified. The extensive framework has been advised to include IG elements such as a PAG (professional advisory group) and patient and public consultation groups, which NHSE will take back as a recommendation.</p> <p>NHSE are currently discussing this work with legal and IG teams. A draft of this new direction will go through a series of reviews, including with DHSC, before it reaches the final signature stage. They envisage a 2 - 6 months time frame before being fully implemented.</p> <p>Once the new direction is established, a review will be conducted in 18 months to 2 years after full implementation, to ensure it meets its obligations as set.</p>	
7	16:15 - 16:25	<p>OpenSAFELY for non-health data</p> <p>Earlier discussion set out our plans to grow beyond health data.</p> <p>Any conditions of working in a new field, for example if DBS checks are required for staff working on education data, will be met and reported to this group.</p>	Pete
8	16:25 - 16:40	<p>OS Network</p> <p>The team have developed a model for how different data centres could communicate with each other, to enable federated analysis and secure data linkage.</p> <p>Historically, if you wanted to link data about one person you would put it all in one place. We propose using our tools to prepare each dataset in its original location, and transferring only the minimum number of fields necessary for linkage. We have set out various models of how this can be delivered effectively, through an efficient combination of re-using existing tools and developing new ones.</p> <p>Feedback on how to move forward with this will be taken carefully. The approach is to ensure consent is managed, and considering the</p>	Ben

		approach to data quality in varying environments.	
9	16:40 - 16:50	Question and Answer (All) - addressed throughout.	
10	16:50 - 17:00	AOB and Close- no other business raised.	

Actions

Item	Action	Owner	Status Notes
23	Finalise and circulate minutes of this meeting (and future meetings) within four weeks.	Liam/ Jeni	Liam to draft and circulate, once signed off by Chair
24	Draft a revised Terms of Reference (TOR) that reflects the structure of the new Governance Board, along with a listing/discussion of new invitees.	Pete	Once detailed, raise with NHSE about their recommendations.