

# OpenSAFELY Oversight Board - 06/07/2023

## Agenda + minutes

Ratified at 18.10.23 Oversight Board

### Attendees

#### Chair:

- Prof. Nigel Shadbolt

#### Bennett Institute:

- Prof. Ben Goldacre - Director and OpenSAFELY PI
- Seb Bacon - Chief Technology Officer
- Amir Mehrkar - Head of IG and external relationships
- Pete Stokes - Director of Platform Development

#### Board Members:

- Chris Bates - Director of Research and Analytics, TPP
- Mark Coley - GP, BMA
- Stephen Evans - Emeritus Prof, LSHTM
- Alex Freeman - Executive Director, Winton Centre for Risk & Evidence Communication, University of Cambridge
- Sean Kirwan - Senior Data Sharing and Privacy Manager, NHSE
- Kevin Minier - Expert patient representative
- Laurie Tomlinson - Prof of Clinical Epidemiology, LSHTM
- Sam Smith - MedConfidential
- Paul Atkinson- RCGP

#### Invited:

- Eva Simmonds- Programme Director Digital Primary Care, NHSE
- Mark Roberts- Programme Governance Lead, NHSE

#### Secretariat:

- Liam Hart - Research Administrator; Bennett Institute

#### Apologies:

- Jeni Tennison - Connected by Data
- Rony Arafin - Chief Operating Officer- ApHA CIC
- Tariq Khokhar - Head of Data for Science & Health, Wellcome Trust
- Shaun O'Hanlon - CMO, EMIS
- Wendy Harrison - Head of Data Governance / Deputy Data Protection Officer, NHSE

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Item	11:00 - 13:00	Topic and Documents
1	11:00 - 11:05	<p>Introduction from the chair (Nigel Shadbolt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Request for AOB- no requests made</li> <li>● Ratify meeting notes from 02/03/2023- Minutes were fully approved apart from a change to Paul Atkinson's note of attendance, as he didn't attend this meeting.</li> <li>● Review of actions (below) 1. Laurie to share feedback- still in progress. 2. Relevant contact details now fully understood.</li> </ul>
2	11:05 - 11:35	<p>Team Update (Ben, Seb, Pete)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Outputs- 11 Papers have been published in the last quarter from internal/external users. Standardised talks were also delivered in the OS (OpenSAFELY) Open Day from Bennett Institute researchers and the wider community of users.</li> <li>● Tech- New software erQHL (electronic health record query language) is being rolled out internally and to some external researchers, to facilitate the curation of "one row per patient" datasets, ready for analysis. Feedback from users claiming development is proving helpful. An OS Interactive Demo was given and access has been agreed for those with current approved projects. Datasets- no new datasets. Open Prompt is nearly ready for use. Other datasets being considered are from the Department of Education, National Institute of Teaching, supermarket data (for non commercial uses), the Food Standards Agency, and Local Government data.</li> <li>● Funding- efforts to secure long-term funding are ongoing. Smaller research grants have been received, with further applications for new grants being continually applied for.</li> <li>● Promotion and Comms - The OS Launch Event received a great turn out from many members of the research community. Videos of sessions captured will be present online in due course. Detailed blogs are also being developed concerning OS work practices. The OS video on how the platform works has now been fully edited and will be present online in due course too.</li> <li>● Staff- no new leavers.</li> </ul>
3	11:35 - 12:05	<p>NHSE Update (Eva)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● IG for COVID uses- work is near completion moving away from the COVID-19 emergency position to a permanent ongoing legal basis operating under NHSE, as a funded service moving forward. Few aspects remain that need to be completed, but no concerns.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of MOU with Bennett Institute ongoing. Letter of intent sent to Oxford to set out expected levels of funding and service.</li> <li>• IG for non-COVID uses- Currently limited to COVID-19, but conversations around non-covid research are being had. Prospect of adoption looking positive with consideration now focusing on best movements forward and where we can add most value.</li> <li>• Annual reviews- OS will require an annual review as a requirement for the COVID-19 Public Health Directions from SoS, along with an entirety of other services operating under those directions. The first review was carried out in December 2022.</li> </ul>
4	12:05 - 12:15	BREAK
5	12:15 - 12:25	<p>OpenSAFELY Governance update (Pete)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This OS Advisory Oversight Board was set up and funded by a Wellcome grant to oversee work that was carried out in OS. Ongoing work is now being carried out with NHSE. As we move towards a new partnership, this will bring new governance requirements, which will become clearer as MoU progresses. The Oversight Board will be kept up to date on all developments and proposals.</li> </ul>
6	12:25 - 12:40	<p>PPIE (Pete)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Digital Critical Friends group is working well with bi-monthly meetings taking place to review the platform as a tool. The group has helped with a couple of research projects, including 'Winter pressures', and offered assistance to wider BI research team too.</li> <li>• Significant engagement on use of SACRO tool, to semi-automate output checking in OS and other TREs.</li> </ul>
7	12:40 - 12:50	<p>Question and Answer + any feedback (All)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The appetite for evidenced based medicine continually arises from the public, with focus now concentrated on how we can increasingly make that an everyday reality.</li> <li>• The potential for GP data to access what is relevant to patients and involving them appropriately is increasingly important.</li> <li>• The ability to access data which was previously unavailable is now available in OS and has shifted the paradigm. This new ability is receiving increasing support in how patient data is analysed and shared.</li> </ul>
8	12:50 - 13:00	<p>Close</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topics to be potentially explored in the next meeting: Local population priorities and the briefing on the new</li> </ul>

		data protection bill from Houses of Parliament were raised. These will be added to a future agenda at the appropriate time.
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## Actions

Item	Action	Owner	Status Notes
21	Laurie to share patient group feedback with NHSE regarding wider non-Covid support for OpenSAFELY.	Laurie	In progress as part of future non-Covid plans
22	Compile a list of names and contact information of those to contact during this transition (NHSE side)	NHSE	Complete (Direction transition in hand)