

OpenSAFELY Oversight Board Agenda and Minutes

18/10/2023

Attendees

Date & Time	11:30am – 13:30pm via Google Meet https://meet.google.com/bzq-grsr-dzx Or dial: (GB) +44 20 3956 6148 PIN: 181 140 884#
Attendees	<p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Nigel Shadbolt <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 <p>Board Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Coley - GP, BMA • Stephen Evans - Professor of Pharmacoepidemiology, LSHTM • Alex Freeman - Executive Director, Winton Centre for Risk & Evidence Communication, University of Cambridge • Sean Kirwan - Senior Data Sharing and Privacy Manager, NHSE • Tariq Khokhar - Head of Data for Science & Health, Wellcome Trust • Kevin Minier - Expert patient representative • Laurie Tomlinson - Professor, LSHTM • Sam Smith - MedConfidential • Imran Khan- Deputy RCGP • Jeni Tennison - Connected by Data <p>Invited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narinder Sandhu - Head of Innovation & Collaboration, NHSE • Mark roberts - 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"> • Amir Mehrkar - Head of IG and external relationships • Chris Bates - Director of Research and Analytics, TPP • Shaun O’Hanlon - CMO, EMIS • Alex Eavis- Chief Product Officer, EMIS • Wendy Harrison - Head of Data Governance / Deputy Data Protection Officer, NHSE • Rony Arafin - Chief Operating Officer- ApHA CIC- <p style="text-align: right;">OpenSAFELY Oversight Board TOR</p>

Documents circulated in advance:

- Item 2 - OpenSAFELY Board Update (for information)

Item	11:30 - 13:30	Topic and Documents
1	11:30 - 11:35	<p>Introduction from the chair (Nigel Shadbolt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for AOB - No items raised • Ratify meeting notes from 06/07/23 - All approved. • Review of actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action 21: still in progress. ○ Action 22: Complete.
2	11:35 - 12:00	<p>Team Update (Ben, Seb, Pete)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IG: Third COPI notice extension issued, while a permanent direction was finalised. Notice to inform GPs of this action was sent out in June, with no concerns raised. • Shared intention by all parties to expand to non COVID uses, with a strong restatement of support issued by BMA and RCGP. • Outputs: Four new papers published, with a further seven in pre-print. • Datasets: No new datasets added. • Funding: Grant application to MRC, for ongoing funding for OpenSAFELY was unsuccessful. <p>NHSE have written to the Head of Department confirming their intention to cover OpenSAFELY running costs for the next Three years (Nov 23 - Oct 26). In parallel, they will also fund TPP and EMIS for their work on the service. This investment will be primarily to support the research service, but will include additional funding for the BI team to develop OS and related products to meet NHSE priorities.</p> <p>BI are in the final stage of a joint funding application the National Institute of Teaching, to the Nuffield Foundation and XTX Markets, seeking to install OpenSAFELY over data held by a number of multi-academy trusts. This will be the first use of the OpenSAFELY tools for non-health data.</p> <p>Also continuing to work with ESRC about other potential uses of OpenSAFELY for non-health data, including retail data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion and Comms: No new promotion or comms. • Staff: No new staff or leavers. • PPIE: Discussions are going well with conversation focusing on providing support with specific projects.

		<p>DCF contribution towards the SACRO project, funded by DARE UK was particularly well received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tech: Type One Opt-outs and process moving forward have been detailed. <p>SACRO - small project, but impactful tool with great feedback received.</p> <p>Continuing work on ehrQL, and documentation on this has come on well.</p> <p>Security enhancements to the platform continue to be made.</p>
3	12:00 - 12:10	<p>OpenSAFELY for non-health data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As use of OpenSAFELY expands into non-health data, this will bring opportunities and challenges. • We are interested in simplifying linkage of data between sources/instances of OpenSAFELY in a way which minimises data transfer, and are developing a proposed methodology for the “Take Only What You Need” (TOWYN) model.
4	12:10 - 12:20	BREAK
5	12:20 - 12:35	<p>NHSE Contract update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract is scheduled to be completed by 31st October, and there is a risk that the service will need to shut down temporarily, if that is significantly delayed. <p>Alongside final drafting, The NHSE team are engaging with relevant Commercial and Executive bodies, and other stakeholders, to ensure that formal contract approval is achieved as scheduled.</p> <p>Action: If a temporary shutdown appears necessary, due to an extended delay in contract completion, an extraordinary meeting of the Oversight Board will be convened.</p>
6	12:35 - 12:40	<p>T100</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHSE have confirmed that 97 “transitional” projects (all named in the DPIA) can continue to use T100 data: 81 project leads have stated they will be able to complete their study by the end of June 2024; 8 will defer until the T100 filter is in place; 8 will complete by the end of Sept 2024.. New projects cannot access this data, and the work to include/exclude that data from projects, as relevant, has also been completed.
7	12:40 - 12:50	Legal basis for non-COVID

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The non-COVID direction was taken to the NHSE Advisory Group for Data (ADG) and full support was received by AGD and JGPIT. The target goal is to implement this direction early in 2024.
8	12:50 - 13:00	<p>OpenSAFELY for Consented Cohorts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of Consented Cohorts have agreed for their EHR data to be used in particular research projects. Access has historically been taken to mean distribution of raw event-level GP data to researchers, which has led to concerns from various stakeholders around issues such as privacy, transparency, and purpose. To address these concerns we were invited to explore the technical issues, regulatory issues, and wider apprehensions, and consider whether there are ways of making data accessible to consented cohort researchers that would meet the needs of the various stakeholders. We have outlined a proposal, involving preparation of raw detailed event-level NHS EHR data in situ prior to export and linkage. This has been supported by stakeholders such as AGD and JGPITC in discussions so far, and there are various consented cohorts who are keen to use the service. We will evaluate the pros and cons of progressing this offer.
9	13:00 - 13:10	<p>New NHSE work and governance remits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The OpenSAFELY Oversight Board is tasked with ensuring the delivery of high quality software tools that meet the needs of users and stakeholders around analysis of sensitive personal data. With NHSE we will establish formal governance for the NHS England OpenSAFELY Service in GP data, which will cover different issues such as the delivery of GP data access using the OpenSAFELY tools and team, alongside any contractual issues and priorities specific to the NHSE OpenSAFELY Service. Once the contract between NHSE and BI is signed, BI and NHSE will develop an updated proposal for how the different Governance forums can work, and the different topics for each, which will be presented for discussion with the OpenSAFELY OB.
10	13:10 - 13:20	<p>Question and Answer (All)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next steps: If we have to shut due to all financial support ending, what do we do in terms of comms? The BI team will manage this, and engage with Nigel and the wider Oversight Board as appropriate, should a shutdown appear likely.
11	13:20 - 13:30	AOB and Close - no other business

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 key IG individuals who might need to be urgently contacted for support on COPI to Direction transition.	NHSE	Complete (Direction transition in hand)