

Equality and Diversity Council Meeting Paper

20th January 2016

Data Measurement Subgroup Update

Purpose and context

An agreed priority of the EDC is to focus upon ensuring the availability of, and access to, the data and tools required to measure our progress in advancing equality and tackling health inequalities. In taking forward this priority, a data measurement subgroup was established with members drawn from key partner organisations.

Actions taken to date

- Work on the development of an Information Standard on sexual orientation data monitoring is progressing, with the scheduled completion date of this phase being the end of March 2016.
- Scoping the means by which data monitoring for patients and staff across all nine equality characteristics is being undertaken.
- NHS England continues to work with the DH to develop the NHS Outcomes Framework so that a range of the indicators can be health inequality assessed.

Current position

- **Sexual orientation monitoring Information Standard**
The work to create an information standard for sexual orientation monitoring is progressing through the SCII development stages. The work is being led by the LGBT Foundation which is currently working with the HSCIC Burden Advice and Assessment Service to identify the benefits to organisations and individuals, and the potential financial burdens, of implementing the Standard. Alongside this work, the LGBT Foundation is engaging with stakeholders across the health and care system to explore their experiences of implementing equalities monitoring. This will feed into the Standard's requirement specification. Discussions with DH regarding the sponsorship of the Standard are underway.
- **Unified equality data Information Standard**
Work to scope the development of a unified Information Standard, which will bring together all nine equality characteristics, is in progress. A project plan has been drafted and a burden assessment of implementation across the nine characteristics is being carried out by the HSCIC. The burden assessment is taking longer than anticipated, this is largely due to the assessment being applied for each and every one of the nine characteristics, however once completed, it will help to determine the approach that will be taken. Resource and potential sponsorship will be key factors in securing a start date to progress with development.
- **NHS Outcomes Framework**
The NHS Outcomes Framework is due to publish health inequalities data in February 2016, subject to data quality and agreement on methodology. This is currently being considered by the NHS Outcomes Framework Technical Advisory Group.

Key risks

Consequential risks of not taking this work forward include:

- Ability to secure a Department of Health sponsor for the unified Information Standard development work;
- Challenge of completing the burden assessment work on the equality questions within a timely period due to the vast nature of the task;
- Difficulty of securing programme funding required for any external consultancy support on the development of the unified Information Standard during 2016/2017.

Next steps

- Continue work on developing an Information Standard for sexual orientation.
- Work with the HSCIC re: appraisal of financial implications for the development of a full and a fundamental Information Standard that brings together the nine equality characteristics.
- NHS England to continue to work with partner organisations on the alignment and breakdown of national health inequalities indicators.

Recommendation and action requested

For the EDC to note the above next steps.

John Holden

**On behalf of the Data Measurement Subgroup of the EDC
January 2016**

[Members of the Data Measurement Subgroup are: John Holden (NHS England) (Chair), Habib Naqvi (NHS England), Ray Avery (NHS England), Ruth Passman (NHS England), Anne Griffin (DH), Catherine Gregson (PHE), Gerry Firkins (HSCIC), Cath Chilcott (HSCIC), Neil Churchill (NHS England), Isabelle Hunt (HSCIC), Justine Fitzpatrick (PHE), Mary Lewis, Alastair Lipp (NHS England), Paul Martin (LGBT Foundation), Scott Reid (NHS England), Katie Robinson (NHS England), Rosemary Main (DH), Tom Hennell (PHE), Kieron Walsh (HSCIC), Phillip Wilcock (NHS England).]