

**Paper Ref:** NIB 0403 – 011

**BOARD PAPER – National Information Board Leadership Meeting**

**Title:** Work Stream 7: Assure best value for taxpayers and open up existing infrastructure

**Purpose of paper:**

- To outline objectives and plans for this work stream

**Actions required by the Leadership Group:**

- To note the report.
- To ratify the plans set out in this paper

## CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The high level objectives of work stream 7 are to develop proposals that ensure best value for the taxpayer and open up the existing infrastructure.

The work stream will be responsible for the commitments set out on page 53 of the National Information Board (NIB) framework:

- The NIB will publish by March 2015 a roadmap for alignment of existing national programmes with the core outcomes of this framework to maximise their cost and clinical benefits, together with proposals for the termination of ineffective investments. It will set out a strategic standard for initiation of further national programmes and a clear ambition for the benefits of future national investment in technology.
- Following the completion of the current local service provider contracts in April 2016 and when requested by care providers, the HSCIC will support the creation of local buying consortia, as already established in London and elsewhere to support Trusts make the best possible procurement decisions.
- The GPSoc contract for the central purchasing of GP systems and associated technology ends in April 2018, and NHS England and DH will consider carefully whether it is appropriate that it continues as a national contract or whether funding for GP systems should be incorporated into the capitation payments made to primary care providers, who will then be free to purchase systems from any supplier, subject to meeting national data and technology standards.
- Security and interoperability standards for common services to be purchased directly by care providers, such as email, will be published by 1 April 2015, which will allow them to connect to the national infrastructure and provide confidence for inter-organisational transactions.
- DH, in consultation with the NIB, will develop proposals for national investment in the digital development of the care system beyond April 2016. This work will draw on the experience of the Technology Fund, and will take a broader perspective across all sectors within the care system. It will inform wider decisions about health funding in the next spending.

The work stream will also be responsible for the following commitment:

- Carers and other providers will need access to the digital infrastructure of the NHS that is currently denied to them. The HSCIC will consult with clinical leaders and other stakeholders and publish a plan by December 2015 for the progressive opening up of connectivity with and use of the NHS infrastructure to all care providers and service users, subject to accreditation. This would

include low-cost secure access to the N3 network and to SCRs. Plans are already advanced to provide a number of retail pharmacies with access to SCRs by June 2015, with a view to national rollout and then extension into social service providers and nursing homes.

## **GOVERNANCE**

A programme board, drawn from National Information Board (NIB) members, including independent members and the clinical reference group, is being established to oversee the delivery of work stream 7. Members will include representatives of the following:

- NHS England
- Health and Social Care Information Centre
- Clinical Reference Group
- Independent NIB member

The programme board will be chaired by Una O'Brien, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health.

The work stream will be led by Tim Donohoe, Director of Informatics at the Department of Health, Beverley Bryant, Director of Strategic Systems and Technology at NHS England and James Hawkins, Director of Programmes Delivery at the Health and Social Care Information Centre.

## **WORK PLAN**

Work stream 7 will assess the existing informatics portfolio to ensure its alignment with the commitments in the NIB framework. This will be achieved by:

- Identifying the entire portfolio of data and technology related activity across the Department of Health (DH) and its Arms' Length Bodies (ALBs)
- Assessing this activity against a range of criteria including (but not limited to) alignment to strategic objectives, 'openness' of architecture, value for money, deliverability, overlap with similar activities
- Identifying opportunities to derive additional value from existing data and technology
- Assessing proposals for new activity arising from other work streams
- Making recommendations on:

- Activity that should be stopped, re-scoped or delivered in a different way
- Activity that should be prioritised for delivery

During March 2015, work stream 7 will review the central informatics portfolio and produce an initial alignment roadmap.

An extended portfolio review of the whole system will follow in May 2015.

## **HIGH LEVEL CHALLENGES AND RISKS**

There will need to be stakeholder engagement to raise awareness and understanding about the implications and what needs to be done to realise the value.

A register of detailed project risks is being managed by the work stream programme office.

## **DECISIONS REQUIRED OF THE LEADERSHIP GROUP**

Work stream 7 requests the leadership group make the following decisions:

- 1. Ratify the plans set out in this paper**