

NIHR BRACE Rapid Evaluation Centre
Steering Group Meeting Minutes
Wednesday 2 March 2022 11am – 1pm
Meeting via Zoom

Chair: Angela Coulter

Attendees: Charlotte Augst, Sophia Christie, Natalie Darko, Reena Devi, Russell Mannion, Nick Mays, June Sadd

Observers: Cathy Dakin, Jo Ellins, Ann Evans, Jenny Newbould, Manni Sidhu

Apologies: Siva Anandaciva, Akiko Hart, Ash Soni, Judith Smith, Jon Sussex, Bert Vrijhoef

For AI & Social Care presentation: Sarah Parkinson

Welcome, introductions and action points from previous meeting

- Angela Coulter (AC) welcomed everyone to the Steering Group meeting and introductions were made.
- Dr Natalie Darko, Associate Professor, Stephen Lawrence Research Centre, De Montfort University and Mr Siva Anandaciva, Chief Analyst, The King's Fund, have joined the BRACE Steering Group. Dr Reena Devi was welcomed to her first meeting.
- There were no conflicts of interest in relation to agenda items, other than those previously noted to the NIHR.
- The action point from the last meeting of suggestions for new Steering Group members had been completed.

Overview of Centre projects:

Jenny Newbould (JN) and Manni Sidhu (MS) presented on the status of all of the current BRACE projects.

Completed → post-report dissemination	In progress	Planned
Primary care networks (journal article, conference presentation, blog post)	Evaluation of the children's mental health trailblazer programme (in partnership with PIRU)	Hospitals managing general practice services Phase 2 (protocol to be submitted in March)
Hospitals managing general practice services Phase 1 (journal article, conference presentation, blog post)	Artificial intelligence plus sensors in adult social care (in partnership with UoB Department of Social Work and Social Care)	Women's health hubs (protocol to be submitted in March)
Impact of telephone triage in primary care on inequalities experienced by people with multiple morbidities (report accepted for publication)	Digital first primary care for people with complex health needs	

Completed → post-report dissemination	In progress	Planned
COVID oximetry at home (in partnership with RSET) (revised report to submit mid-March)	Evaluating service innovations for people of all ages with multiple long-term conditions (overarching study)	
COVID oximetry in care homes (in partnership with RSET)		

Discussion:

- There was a discussion about the COVID oximetry studies and Sophia Christie (SC) asked if and how the findings were informing the current roll-out of remote monitoring models and wider uses of digital technology in the NHS and also what the study had learned about carers' experiences of services delivered in this way.
Action: Cathy Dakin (CD)/MS to share pre-print of Patients' and carers' experience of oximetry
- Charlotte Augst (CA) noted that there was currently a lack of understanding about what the 'front door' of care actually is and how it has changed; there is an urgent need to find out where people are failing to access care and where inequalities lie.
- There was a discussion about the Women's reproductive health hubs evaluation, the protocol for which will shortly be submitted to the NIHR. The evaluation is likely to include a survey to map Women's Health Hubs, and in-depth work with a selected number of exemplar hub sites. It will also scope options for a longer-term evaluation of women's health hubs.
Action: CD to circulate Women's Health Hubs protocol to the Steering Group when available

Patient and Public Involvement Update

JN presented on the review of involvement that BRACE has done with its PPI panel members. The panel will now routinely meet in the week before Steering Group meetings so that June Sadd (JS) can properly represent the views of the PPI panel.

AI and Social Care

Sarah Parkinson (SP) presented on this evaluation.

Discussion:

- Reena Devi (RD) stated that the findings of the work resonated with existing theories of technology implementation and scale-up, although these tended to originate from healthcare rather than the social care/care homes field. RD will share information on these theories and related literature with Sarah.
Action: RD to share information with SP
- Several people noted that the learning from previous studies of similar tele-medicine/tele-care innovations – including the national Whole Systems Demonstrator evaluation – does not appear to have been heeded, and so the same mistakes or challenges occur again. It was also noted that the study echoed a common finding from previous studies looking at the implementation of change: namely that the commissioning and planning of new ways of working (in the case of the AI and social care study, a new technology) is often led by managers, with a lack of involvement of the frontline staff who are charged with putting that technology into practice.

- There was support from the Steering Group for a practical output from the study (for example a checklist for decision makers and practitioners to use to ensure the technology addresses needs).

Children and young people's mental health (CYPMH) trailblazer programme evaluation:

JE presented on this.

Discussion:

- SC stated the need to frame and explore the resourcing of Tier 2 and 3 mental health services and asked what is driving the turnover of EMHPs.
- Natalie Darko (ND) stated the need to improve the diversity of practitioners and the importance of findings being culturally relevant and sensitive. JE will contact ND at outcomes stage to explore further.

Concluding thoughts:

JE noted that discussions had highlighted that there is a gulf between health/care services as designed and as experienced, and that a recurring theme in the meeting was the failure of decision-makers to learn from predecessor programmes/services and their evaluations. It is important that enduring problems should be considered at the design stage of next generation programmes.

Next meeting: Tuesday 7 June 2022 11am, Royal Society of Medicine, London