Summary of Discussion: UKHSA Data Science Advisory Board Meeting 25th February 2022 14:30-15:20 [held virtually]

Chair: Wendy Hall

1. **Previous minutes agreed and signed off**
   - Apologies were noted from: Professor Simon Vosper, Dr Johanna Hutchinson and Dr Ben Goldacre.
   - Previous minutes (28.01.22) signed off.

2. **UKHSA update**
   - No results of spending review to update on yet.
   - Updates on DSAB review regarding the way DSAB operates:
     - DSAB Secretariat thanked all for comments that fed into review.
     - DSAB Secretariat is pulling together review in coming weeks and will share recommendations at the next meeting.

3. **E2E (end to end) QA process Presentation**
   - Presentation given by Jonathon Mellor.
   - Spoke about the main QA processes the wide remit of activities the DS QA team are involved in including targeted QA reviews, Analytical community advocacy, Standards development, and model register.
   - Emphasised how the aim is to work with teams to provide recommendations for improvement and provide support to enable good analysis.
   - Highlighted challenges for the team that include transitioning from speed to quality, to avoid 'baking in' poor practice, securing buy-in from teams and standardising approaches between teams, as well as 'scope creep'.

4. **Discussion**
   - The possible need for subcategories of QA, a revisit time for models and rating system that is proportionate.
   - Suggestion that the QA work needs to transition from being reactive to proactive and dynamic, so it can be integrated (e.g. throughout the algorithm development process).
   - Board member commented that it would be good to follow up on this discussion again.
   - Issue of 'scope' and what makes a good data scientist in an emerging field is one for a future meeting.
   - Sharing learning with other organisations is also important.

5. AOB
- Professor Dame Wendy Hall thanked for her chairing.
- Agreed on Chair for the next 3 DSAB meetings, which will be Professor Sylvia Richardson.
- Noted that this is Sophie Walsh and Emma Collins' last DSAB meeting.

6. Meeting Outcomes
- E2E to be added to agenda of future meeting to progress discussion.
- To discuss in future the accreditation that the 'new' profession of data scientists could credibly follow.
- Outputs of DSAB review will be circulated as soon as possible and brought to next meeting.
- Discussion between Professor Andrew Morris and Dr Nick Watkins and Jonathon Mellor on knowledge sharing beyond UKHSA.

Attendance:

Attendee	Role
Professor Dame Wendy Hall	Professor, Associate Vice President (International Engagement) and Executive Director (Web Science Institute), University of Southampton
Professor Daniela De Angelis	Professor of Statistical Science for Health, University of Cambridge, Deputy Director and Programme Leader at the MRC-BS
Dr Zeynep Engin	Urban Dynamics Laboratory, UCL
Professor Chris Holmes	Programme Director for Health and Medical Sciences, The Alan Turing Institute
Professor Graham Medley	Professor of Infectious Disease Modelling, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Professor Andrew Morris	Director, Health Data Research UK
Professor Sylvia Richardson	Emeritus Director of the MRC Biostatistics Unit, University of Cambridge
Johnathon Mellor	UK Health Security Agency (Presenting)
Dr Nick Watkins	UK Health Security Agency (Observing)
Dr Sophie Walsh	UK Health Security Agency (Secretariat)
Professor Tracey Thornley	UK Health Security Agency (Secretariat)
Emma Collins	UK Health Security Agency (Secretariat)