

Summary of discussion: UKHSA Data Science Advisory Board Meeting 29th October 2021, 14:30-15:20 [held virtually]

Chair: Daniela De Angelis

1. Previous minutes were signed off and agreed

- Apologies were noted from: Professor Andrew Morris, Professor Simon Vosper, Professor Chris Holmes, Professor Alison Heppenstall and Professor Dame Wendy Hall.
- Previous minutes (24.09.21) signed off.

2. Presentation: Introducing the UKHSA – governance, priorities and ambitions

- UKHSA was launched on 1st October and brought together JBC, PHE and NHS Test & Trace.
- Data, analytics and surveillance underpins many UKHSA operations, and many of the tools and relationships the JBC built can be brought forward for use in UKHSA.
 - Collaborations between the JBC and the devolved administrations will continue to be built upon within UKHSA, establishing a clear UK-wide role.
- UKHSA will also recognise the strengths of collaborating with academia, local government and industry.
- As well as collaborations within the UK, UKHSA will support in the creation of a stronger global health protection system through international partnerships and engagement.
- Ultimately, UKHSA will position itself as a system leader for health emergency planning and responses by ensuring system readiness.
 - Beyond COVID, UKHSA will provide health security for the nation against infectious disease, global health hazards and environmental hazards.

3. Discussion

- Members observed that where data analytics is planned to be carried out amongst multiple teams, correct integration of these teams should be ensured.
 - The presenter responded that there should be data literacy across the agency instead of one central data analytics group. Additionally, whilst teams will work differently so as to perform different roles, there should be a unified style and standard.
 - There was a further comment that uniformity might not always be possible but common principles that can outlast individual policies (e.g. sharing data whenever possible) are important.
- It was commented that there should be a clear distinction between UKHSA's health crisis intervention and reflective abilities as both of these roles are covered within its remit.
- It was advised that the UKHSA act upon opportunities to influence best practice science and to project this influence globally.
 - There was an offer from a board member (Dr Ben Goldacre) to meet again and discuss this further. This offer was accepted further by UKHSA.
- Questions were raised around collaboration between the four nations, and around UKHSA's goals outside of COVID, with responses provided by UKHSA.

4. Any other business

- Professor Daniela de Angelis was thanked for her role as Chair.
- Hannah Ogden was thanked for her role as secretariat.

5. Meeting outcomes

- UKHSA asked to reflect on core principles and present these for discussion in a future meeting.
- Dr Ben Goldacre to send around notes on data science best practice, with board members encouraged to comment.

Attendance:

Professor Daniela De Angelis	Professor of Statistical Science for Health, University of Cambridge, Deputy Director and Programme Leader at the MRC-BSU
Dr Ewan Birney	Deputy Director General of EMBL, Director of EMBL-EBI
Dr Zeynep Engin	Urban Dynamics Laboratory, UCL
Dr Ben Goldacre	Director, DataLab, University of Oxford
Dr Johanna Hutchinson	Director of Analysis and Data Science, UKHSA
Professor Graham Medley	Professor of Infectious Disease Modelling, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Professor Sylvia Richardson	Chair of Biostatistics, Director of MRC-BSU, University of Cambridge
Dr Ian Davies	Director of Data Design, Digital Transformation & Delivery and Director of Strategy, Workforce Dev & Governance, UK Health Security Agency (Presenting)
Charlie Dunstan-Rice	UK Health Security Agency (Secretariat)
Hannah Ogden	UK Health Security Agency (Secretariat)