

## **Workstream Advisory Group**

### **NIHR Policy Research Unit in the Economics of Health Systems and the Interface with Social Care**

#### **ESHCRU II**

#### **Terms of Reference (last updated 09 August 2021)**

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### **Purpose / role of the Group**

The ESHCRU II Workstream Advisory Group (the Group) exists to advise on the Unit's programme of work across the three workstreams: Demand for health care; Supply-side efficiency; Organisation, incentives and regulation.

Specific responsibilities of the Group are:

1. To attend Workstream Advisory Group meetings.
2. To read materials in advance of the meeting such as research reports.
3. To raise emerging policy issues that require evidence.
4. To comment on research topics and/or suggest refinements to projects.
5. To identify and frame research questions.
6. To identify implications of results.
7. To advise on dissemination and impact of research findings.

### **Membership**

1. Membership of the Group is by invitation only.
2. Membership of the Group is not restricted by age, colour, race, ethnicity or nationality, disability, gender or sexuality.
3. Patient / public members are involved as equal members.
4. The research team seeks to include on the Group representatives from the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS and Social Care regulators, health and social care professionals, policy commentators and academics.
5. The term of office is three years, and may be extended a further two years
6. Members are free to withdraw at any time.
7. Travel and subsistence costs for attendance will be reimbursed.<sup>1</sup>

### **Confidentiality**

1. Group meetings should be a comfortable environment to hold honest conversations.
2. Minutes of the meeting will be cleared by the Group.

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<sup>1</sup> Reimbursement will be in accordance with NIHR requirements, e.g. 2nd class train travel.

3. Members agree to respect the confidentiality of any unpublished papers that are shared.
4. Discussions of evolving policy thinking and direction should not be shared outside the Group.
5. Agreed research questions will be kept confidential until they are in the public domain.

### **Declaration of interests**

1. All group members are required to declare if they have any interests that might be in conflict with the work of the Group.
2. A conflict of interest does not stop anyone from being a member of the Group. However, it does mean that they cannot take part in any discussions or decisions made on an issue where they have a conflict of interest.

### **Review**

1. Informal feedback from members will be invited after each meeting.
2. The working of the Group will be reviewed periodically and feedback from the Group will be sought.

### **Working methods / ways of working**

1. The Group will meet twice a year, and meetings will last 2-3 hours.
2. Meetings will be semi-formal and an open, respectful atmosphere is encouraged.
3. If meetings are face-to-face, we will ensure meeting rooms are accessible.
4. The Project Co-ordinator, Louise Campbell, will take minutes.
5. Members should be willing to engage as 'critical friends' with academic research.
6. At all stages of the research, members will engage with questions of value for money, quality of care, integration / coordination of health and social care.
7. Members are expected to listen to others and to express their own views.

### **Sharing of information and resources (including confidential materials)**

1. Agendas will be drafted by the research team and circulated ahead of the meeting.
2. Research proposals and unpublished findings should be treated in confidence at all times.
3. It is each member's responsibility to make it clear where a matter shall remain confidential and not for discussion outside the Group.