

BIVDA External Affairs Working Party Meeting Minutes – 20 May

Apologies – *None received*

Helen Dent (HD) read out the Competition Law notice to attendees.

Working Party Chair Ollie Mitchell (OM) addressed the previous meeting notes and no actions needed the group's attention.

Guest Speaker presentation - Mr Bruce Daniel, Head of Pathology, NHS SW Region

- Bruce spoke to the group on his pathology network's work, Community Diagnostic Centres, pathology workforce needs, workstreams, ICSs and GIRFT.
- There are 7 regional directors Bruce works with across the country, working with Jo Martin and Jane Mills on various strategies.
- There are 15 pathology services in the SW region, looking at blood sciences, immunology, clinical microbiology, AMR, virology, blood transfusion, cellular pathology, point of care testing.
- Genomics service development is underway with a partnership between NHSE&I, Prof Dame Sue Hill and the CSO's office.
- There are two cancer networks, the Peninsular service and SWAG based in the region's north.
- A lot of work is happening around the shortage of consultant colleagues, improving the pipeline for scientists, using clinical scientists better. Next week, an overarching diagnostics workforce will be published next week for the national plan.
- With the release of the GIRFT report, there is an 'effectiveness agenda' to reduce waits and improve patient pathways.
- Pathology networks are collaborations between multiple NHS provider organisations, and their scale is such that they can be significant operating businesses in their own right.
- In the SW region, they are moving from a position where collaborations working together was the norm towards a position where the status of networks is being promoted such that the network ought to be doing what the network thinks the right thing to do it.
- Nationally, there are 29 networks, and there is an aim to reduce this number. Pathology's visibility on a national level is going up, this has been exhibited through operational planning guidance 22/23 notes. The guidance states that networks are to be 'mature' by 24/25.
- There are 7 domains that characterise a pathology network: governance, leadership, operational, quality, IT& Digital, workforce, and shared supply chain. The domains form part of a five maturity categories matrix, from pre-emerging to thriving.
- Procurement is a key feature of network maturity development, and the expectation is that a network plans to include improving network procurement.
- Community Diagnostic Centres are picking up diagnostics away from the acute, and these do include pathology.
- There are aims to deliver one CDC per system, to support diagnostic elective recovery and to improve efficiency and patient experience. CDCs provide extra capacity, and access to phlebotomy and access to results. Point of care adds value to the concepts of 'one stop shops'. SW Region CDCs are well spread out in the region, and Year 2 planning is underway for these (as part of the delivery of the Richards report).

- There are possible new workstreams for regional pathology teams such as AMR, blood transfusion and business continuity. Improvements will be addressed in elective recovery, cancer and UEC generally.
- As part of the business-as-usual plan, there are currently changes to use cases for particular technology, who gets what test is changing. There is a drive to increase LFD testing, lessen PCR usage. Externalising pathology into system-wide diagnostics through dashboards and CDCs. A key theme is horizontal digital integration within/between/across systems.
- GIRFT outcomes will continue to be worked on, e.g. the right test at the right time.

Please find Bruce's presentation [slide deck here](#).

Update from Helen on BIVDA's current activities

- CTDA work is ongoing, particularly around resources such as UKHSA minimising staff numbers. CTDA has retained its resource at least for the upcoming year, although there are changes in leadership.
- At the medtech trade association meeting, there was concern around China supply chains and business continuity. Members have been contacted by Helen around this.
- A meeting is scheduled with the Medtech Directorate's David Wathey, Jack Attard and Sandra Barrow in June to discuss the progress on the Diagnostics Strategy.
- Some of the BIVDA team attended the MedTech Europe Forum 2022 in Barcelona to horizon scan and meet European stakeholders. There was a concentration on digital, CSR, sustainability and IVDR.
- Doris-Ann has been representing BIVDA at various roundtables and forums on pandemic preparedness and learnings from the COVID crisis. This includes an in-person Biointegrates/UKRI conference on 'Preparing for the next Pandemic' attended by Dame Sarah Gilbert and Janet Hemingway.

Member Involvement:

- It's essential for the External Affairs WP that it is agenda-led and member-led. Members are encouraged to feed-back to [the BIVDA team](#) any topics they'd like to see on meeting agendas for 2022, any feedback, ideas for speakers/organisational engagement, documents that could be compiled.

AOBs:

- No AOBs were flagged.

Next Meeting Date:

The next External Affairs Working Party meeting will take place on **9.30-10.30 on Friday 17 June. Please register your attendance [here](#).**

END