

NIHR Cancer and Nutrition Collaboration Executive Committee

Tuesday 14th February 2023, 1-4pm

Attendees: Vicky Coyle, Amanda Cross Fiona Davey, Kate Holmes, Alan Jackson, Nicola Keat, Elisa Mills, Steve Wootton, Raquel Revuelta Iniesta

Apologies: Kate Allen, Mark Brougham, Clare Shaw, Lucy Eldridge, Martin Wiseman, James Thorne, Mike Grocott

Item	Note and actions	Lead
Minutes of the last meeting	An edit is needed on the spelling of a surname. Subject to the edit the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.	
Collaboration strategy	<p>The Collaboration is reviewing its strategy to define how its activities in the next phase will be prioritised. The strategy needs to be very focused with hard deliverables. The challenge is that the Collaboration has a broad remit, the activities require focusing across a thematic agenda. Many topics cross more than one work stream so we also need to be clear how each work stream contributes to specific objectives.</p> <p>A refreshed strategy will also provide a framework on which to be evaluated.</p> <p>Action: Each work stream to define short and long term deliverables and show they will collaborate with other work streams</p> <p>The areas of strategic focus were defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prehabilitation - Children, Teens and Young Adults with Cancer - Quality Assure Framework for nutrition research <p>This does not prevent work streams working in other areas, but these would be the areas of focus. It was confirmed that ‘prehabilitation’ is not restricted to the pre-treatment phase but includes supportive care before, during and after, as well as secondary prevention. These focus topics can be applied across the area of mechanistic work, service delivery and workforce. The development of the mechanistic research is key because understanding why there are differences in responses to interventions is key in moving forwards.</p> <p>Action: Draft matrix of themes against working groups</p>	<p>Work stream leads</p> <p>SAW/FD</p>

	<p>The question was raised of a top-down vs bottom-up approach to setting priorities. NK reported that NCRI uses a funnel-down approach. The Collaboration will adopt a top-down approach in terms of impact and the work streams will define more specific priorities for themselves.</p> <p>Action: Arrange a meeting with leads to discuss strategy further, or VC/SAW to join individual work stream meetings.</p>	FD
Advisory committee	<p>When the Collaboration was initiated there was buy-in from senior level people, which we hoped would enable an environment where our activities could be supported at a national and international level. This is important as nutritional science typically uses integrative approaches and support for science generally is directed towards reductive approaches to research and additional support is required.</p> <p>The relationship with and representation of senior colleagues has changed over the years and the Collaboration seeks to reinstate their support to give us steer on our priorities, provide advice and inform us of opportunities at a national level.</p> <p>Action: Further thought is required on the specific advice that the Collaboration would need (workforce and priorities for NHS to be considered), and identification of who we would wish to contribute to the committee. The management committee will pursue this for further direction next time.</p>	Management Committee
Representation on Executive Committee	<p>The committee reviewed the arrangement for representing specific groups of members within the Executive Committee such as professional groups and charities.</p> <p>As CS has retired from her substantive post she notified the committee that she would step down from the role of representing professional groups, but would remain on the committee in the capacity of LWBC work stream lead.</p> <p>When we brought the charities together we discovered that there was not a common body that represented them, which is why we needed to find a way to represent them. The question of how many charities we want to work with was raised and whether one or two strategic partnerships might be more beneficial than a larger group. This type of partnership has been successful with WCRF to deliver a specific work programme, with funding attached. A key matter is that smaller charities want to be able to work with us but are not themselves able to contribute to the Collaboration.</p> <p>A suggestion was made that a member of the committee can hold a portfolio to focus on wider charities engagement, and a separate discussion can lead on specific charity strategic partnerships.</p>	

PPIE	<p>Funding is a key issue and it is priority to find funding to support all of our PPIE contributors. A Chair will need to be recruited when further funding is identified.</p> <p>Steve has a contact of Judith Williamson who works within NIHR. The suggestion has been made that PPIE could be supported as a small scale grant application on patient experience.</p> <p>The topic of minimally important differences is of interest to patients, in contrast to statistically derived differences. Patients would be asked what is important with regards to patient-regarded outcomes and how these should be weighted.</p> <p>AC is also working in this area and would be interested in working on the project.</p> <p>Further work needs to be done on engagement to connect with people with cancer. This can be an opportunity to work with the charities and would be impactful for disseminating messages.</p> <p>EM was contacted by a company that has a patient app and they have an interest in PROMS outcomes. This organisation would be willing to partner with others and tailor PROMS for the audiences.</p> <p>Action: Members to inform FD of any consumer forum/patient group connections.</p> <p><i>Kate Holmes and Raquel Revuelta Iniesta left the meeting.</i></p>	All
Finance	<p>The MOU is complete and the money has been transferred to UHS.</p> <p>The Collaboration will need to revisit further fundraising opportunities to ensure sustainability.</p> <p>The Collaboration's membership model can be revisited later in the year. A suggestion was made that if we provide input to specific projects, we could charge a fee for service.</p> <p>Fees for CPD activities was suggested as a potential fundraising activity.</p> <p>The Collaboration previously had discussions about fundraising via Southampton Hospital Charity but the approval was withdrawn. With WCRF formally supporting the activity it might be possible to fundraise via WCRF, which would be unlikely to cause any problems for DHSC. The Collaboration would need to be clear about the ask and the return on the money for any fundraising campaigns.</p>	

	<p>The suggested offer to BRCs which might help in securing funding in the future is a platform model for doing trials on nutrition interventions in cancer. This might involve different interventions for the same cancer or the same intervention across multiple cancers.</p> <p>The idea was put forward that if the PPIE panel becomes more established this could be offered as a service which could help to raise funds.</p>	
WCRF	<p>A written update was provided for the WCRF partnership. The key ongoing projects are the Informed newsletter, FAQs the medical education project, and the cancer health check tool.</p> <p>Medical Education WCRF has conducted a review on the curricula in medical schools and mapped where their existing resources fit in. They plan to run a pilot with 1 or 2 medical schools.</p> <p>FAQs We have been working with WCRF and the BDA. The FAQs were published with a soft launch in August 2022, providing some time to see how they were used organically and through search engine results. The team is now working on promotion via professional and patient groups. This will be a good element of engagement with any new PPIE members.</p> <p>Cancer Health Check tool Further clarity is required from WCRF about the direction of the project.</p> <p>Cancer Prevention Awareness Week We are supporting WCRF in promoting their Cancer Prevention Awareness Week. FD has asked the Cancer Prevention work stream if any members would like to help with writing a blog. AC agreed to work with FD to write a piece for the website. The focus for the campaign is reducing red and processed meat consumption.</p> <p>Both WCRF and the Collaboration are finding that the partnership is working well. It is helping to achieve common ambitions and we put joint resources together to deliver them.</p>	
Work stream leadership updates	<p>Annie Anderson informed the Collaboration in December that she would be stepping down from the leadership of the Population Health work stream. Expressions of Interest have been requested for successors to the role, and one has been received so far.</p> <p>The Committee expressed their thanks to AA for her considerable time and effort in her leadership of the work stream.</p>	

