



England Infected Blood Support Scheme (EIBSS) Monthly Accountability Review Meeting

Minutes

Meeting type:
Meeting date/time:
Location:

EIBSS Monthly Meeting
Wednesday 22 September 2020 – 12:30- 14:00hrs
Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

DHSC
Ismail Saddiq (IS)
Helen Hamilton (HH)

NHSBSA
James Hardy (JH)
June Omadoye (JO)
Hollie Edminson (HE)
Mal Ross (MR)

Apologies:
James Byers (JB)
Helen Causley (HC)
Linzi Fowler (LF)

1	Welcome and Introductions
1	Chairs Introduction Everyone was welcomed to the meeting.
2	Review of previous minutes and actions (Papers 1 & 2)
	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting held Wednesday 26 August were approved as an accurate record.</p> <p>The action points outstanding from the previous Quarterly Meeting – 26 May 2020 were reviewed.</p> <p>02– Closed.</p> <p>04 – No info on HM forces – this will be removed. The MOU is now due for review. Carried forward. JH/HH</p> <p>06 – JH to get in touch with Russell Cooke to discuss costs to be paid by DHSC. Carried forward.</p> <p>The action points from previous monthly meeting 30 July 2020 were reviewed.</p> <p>10 – Information provided from WIBBS. Carried forward. JH</p> <p>11 – Closed.</p> <p>22 – This is to do with medical assessors. Carried forward. JH/HE</p> <p>24 – ITU backdated payment dates - Carried forward. JH</p>
	DHSC Updates

3	
	<p><u>General Update</u></p> <p>HH gave an update on the Inquiry. The Inquiry resumed its sitting on 21st September, with Lord Owens giving evidence. He was setting the scene on how the situations were in the 60's and 70's.</p> <p>In regard to compensation, the minister would like a framework on compensation. This is a direct response to the Inquiry. The development of this framework will start in the next couple of weeks and will be about the scoping exercises to decide what should be looked into.</p> <p>The parity on all the devolved nations has been shared with cabinet office. The Minister will write to the Treasury about their view and if there is any budget to take this further. This will be explored further and NHSBSA will be notified of the outcome.</p> <p>There are two outstanding Judiciary Review (JR) requests, (1) regarding the cut-off date on Hep C, (2) why Hep B is not included in the Scheme.</p> <p>Recruitment on the post left vacant by Thomas Reed is in progress. NHSBSA will be informed when the successful candidate has been recruited.</p> <p>Nadine Dorries (Minister responsible for Infected Blood Policy) has been asking for regular updates on EIBSS and the Inquiry. She has been kept up to date on all issues. Nadine is really interested in the psychological support with regards to EIBSS.</p> <p>In regard to the JR, JH explained that the cut-off date for Hep C is based on 1991 Hep C blood screening commencement. Any decision to move from this date would create significant administrative activity and would need to be communicated appropriately. The HIV cut-off date is being considered as part of the specification revision to ensure this is clearly documented and the formatting of the criteria sections are consistent between Hep C and HIV.</p> <p>ACTION 25: HH is working with DHSC lawyers on the JR and will keep NHSBSA updated on progress and any input that may be required.</p>
4	<p>NHSBSA Updates</p>
	<p><u>DHSC Funding letter:</u> JH informed HH that, DHSC is required to send a funding letter dated for financial year 2020/2021 for the scheme funding commitment for the year.</p> <p><u>EIBSS first Newsletter:</u> Hollie gave an update on the first EIBSS newsletter. The newsletter has been published and will be sent to all Beneficiaries week commencing 28 September 2020. The newsletter will cover introductory information on EIBSS team, what their roles are, the work EIBSS are undertaking, information on discretionary payments etc. A survey will accompany the newsletter, seeking feedback about the newsletter itself, giving Beneficiaries the option to opt in, to receive future newsletters. The survey also asks them to comment on the frequency and content and distribution method of future newsletters.</p> <p>ACTION 26: MR to send a copy of the newsletter to HH and IS.</p> <p><u>Focus Group:</u> In regard to EIBSS focus groups, due to Covid-19, the last focus group was held in February 2020. The team is reviewing the possibility of remote sessions via Microsoft Teams to allow Beneficiaries to attend the focus groups during the current pandemic.</p> <p><u>Satisfaction survey:</u> MR gave an update on a proposed Satisfaction Survey to be completed by Beneficiaries. This survey would be similar to the SIBBS Satisfaction survey conducted recently. The Satisfaction</p>

	<p>survey would be sent to England Beneficiaries only. Questions will be compiled and will be clear and straight forward for Beneficiaries to answer.</p> <p>MR will send the Satisfaction survey to DHSC to approve before sending the questions to Beneficiaries. The results/feedback received from the survey will be compiled and used to create an action plan for EIBSS team to work on throughout 2021.</p> <p><u>Financial Hardship</u></p> <p>JH gave an update on the financial hardship query from a Beneficiary due to Covid-19 lockdown. JH mentioned that he had a discussion with Thomas Reed about a Beneficiary wanting to claim financial hardship due to Covid-19 as they were self-employed and shielding. Financial hardship was discussed to see if EIBSS could assist Beneficiaries when they were not getting any support from the Government in April – (the Government started giving business funding to self-employed in July). Subsequent conversations amongst the team after working with the Beneficiary concerned and the evidence provided to-date have highlighted that the original proposal of an additional application route is not required. To introduce such an application time could lead to Beneficiaries opting to claim financial hardship from EIBSS instead of returning to work/actively seeking employment. Other Government support must always be explored before applying to EIBSS.</p> <p>After a brief discussion, it was agreed that setting up a distinct financial hardship process would not be required, as EIBSS can assist the Beneficiaries through the current discretionary payments process up to £5k for a one-off payment. EIBSS are working with the Beneficiary via this route in order to provide what assistance it can.</p>
5	Data Paper 3
	<p><u>EIBSS Dashboard / MI Report</u></p> <p>JH presented the information on the EIBSS Dashboard for August 2020.</p> <p>All KPI Measures were achieved in August 2020. No KPI were missed in August and all targets were met.</p>
6	Finance Paper 4
	<p><u>Finance Year to date</u></p> <p>JH presented the financial information for EIBSS for the month of August 2020.</p> <p>The financial report is on track and there were no issues to report. There were no questions.</p>
7	Governance Paper 5
	<p>JH presented the Risk and Issues Register to the group. There were two NHSBSA closed risks, which are documented within the register.</p> <p>No questions were raised regarding the Risk and Issues Register.</p>
8	Any other business
	<p>There were none.</p> <p>Date of next meeting is Wednesday 28 October 12:30 – 14:00.</p>