

Expert by Experience Board

9th March 2021

Attendees

Board members:

- Judith Denton
- Sean Geoghegan
- Helen Bell
- Janet Kay
- Chris Hoyle
- Angela Fraser-Wicks
- David Akinsanya
- Rhiannon Parkinson
- Esi Cathline
- Margaret Mulowska
- Arif Salarzai
- Julianne Bayford

Review Team:

- Josh MacAlister, Chair
- Duncan Dunlop, Independent Adviser to the Review
- Review team members

Apologies:

- Jerome Harvey-Agyei
- Chris Wild
- Chloe Robinson
- Charmaine Orchard

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and reflections from the first meeting

- Positive response to first meeting: “great to meet everyone and hear about how we are going to be working together”. Those present generally expressed the meeting as helping to better understand the function of the board and to be in a group of diverse and interesting people with a broad range of experiences. Welcomed clarity around the function of the group and the role that individuals can play in the review to deliver change.

Agenda Item 2: Ways of working

Discussion

- Maintain respect in this group.
- Inclusivity: ensure all member have a voice regardless of different experience of speaking in groups. Perhaps useful to have smaller group discussions as well. The group will be receptive to differing opinions.

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- Wellbeing: Have named review team members as a wellbeing contact. Check ins and check outs after each board meeting. EbE members to have regular 1:1 with Josh for any concerns to be raised.
- On selecting a chair, board members decided one of the review team could co-chair and deal with the administrative functions to allow Board members to focus on contributing. It was agreed that EbE members will stand as the rolling co-chair (for those that want to) and the younger members could chair with a mentor to get some additional support if needed. Volunteers will email the team if they wish to volunteer.
- Review team member suggested that it would be optimal if the Board was chaired by a Board member and led by EbyE members. Some board members put themselves forward – others were asked to notify the review team after the meeting if they would like to.
- Group would prefer to put final ways of working on paper and agree to it as a collective group. Josh asked if a subset of the Board would volunteer to help write the ways of working document for the Board.
- Confidentiality: Be clear on what is confidential and what is appropriate to say publicly.
- It would be good to have reflection time at the end of every meeting.

Actions

- Review team to address terminology/language for the group to avoid confusion and agree what they can and cannot say outside of the meetings.
- Four members agreed to work with the review team to draft ways of working document.

Agenda Item 3: Scotland and New Zealand Care Review

- Duncan presented slides to the group on the two other review he has worked on.

Agenda Item 4: Engagement and Participation

- Review team member thanked the group for sending feedback on initial review engagement plans in advance, keen to share our thinking but this needs to be shaped by the Board to inform recommendations.

Discussion

- Understand different care journeys and base journeys so you have specific questions for each part of the system. Identify issues in each care journey. Recognise we have diverse experiences and angles but identify common threads that resonate with everyone
- Get participants to write it in their own words to ensure the authenticity of their voice.
- Reach different types of groups. Be careful of which charities we engage with to ensure that care experienced voices are not distorted.
- Focus on what doesn't work but also what does work. Aim of engagement is to make a meaningful difference and families.

Preferred engagement options

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- Board members were asked to nominate and vote on their top five preferred engagement methods. These were:
 - Local discussions led by care experienced people.
 - Workshops
 - Events led in partnerships with charities
 - Online surveys – can be shared on social media
 - Small focus groups
- Majority agreed with the top five methods with some comments:
 - Engagement with children should not be restricted to Children in Care groups/councils.
 - There is value in surveys.
 - There are a lot of charities, and we need to ensure we engage with those that have the right motives to get involved.
 - Some 1:1 sessions are necessary.
 - Ensure it is not just charities but other types of organisations that are included.
- The group endorsed the approach for engagement.

Actions

- 5 Board members volunteered to co-author the engagement strategy with the review team.