DECIDE – Steering Committee biographies

Breid O'Brien – Steering Committee Chair

Breid has recently left the NHS after a long career working in frontline health services, and at Regional and National level. Her most recent position was as Director of Innovation and Digital Health at NHS England, leading a team supporting the national implementation of technology to enable people to be cared for at home who would otherwise need to be in hospital.

As a Registered Nurse, Breid specialised in Emergency Care in both the UK and Australian healthcare systems before moving into operational management and leadership roles. She completed a Master's degree majoring in management at the University of Technology Sydney; on her return to the UK in 2000, she took a Master's in Healthcare Informatics at Kings College London. Since 2003 she has worked in technology and change management roles. She is especially interested in utilising research and evidence-based improvement science to support technology enabled change and was a co-author of the publication "Optimising the impact of health services research on the organisation and delivery of health services: a mixed-methods study".

Breid's major interest is transformation enabled by technology and she has been a strong advocate for the alignment of improvement science and technology, having studied with the Institute of Healthcare Improvement (Boston).

She is now working as an independent transformation consultant, with a continuing focus on supporting technology enabled improvement within the health and care system.

Anica Alvarez Nishio

Anica Alvarez Nishio is an experienced public advocacy consultant and editor. She has served on and chaired a number of boards, funding committees and government organisations with a focus on health, education, marginalised groups and community engagement (NICE Quality Standards Advisory Committee; NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research and Quality Safety Outcomes Policy Review Unit; Adolescent Mental Health Data Platform; Veterans Advisory Pensions Committee; Independent Monitoring Board HMP Erlestoke). Through her roles as a lay rep with Health Education England, a local councillor and an advocate for social-enterprise charities, she has first-hand experience in the practical delivery of health and mental-health care strategies, primarily making these equitably accessible for those in farming, military and mixed communities. She has an interest in the effective usage of data and technology and particularly in the ethical issues surrounding the delivery of care.

Keith Chessell

Keith Chessell is co-founder of Solcom Ltd and creator of their Whzan Digital Health service. National award winning Whzan improves lives, saves resources and enhances care provision.

Catherine Dale

Catherine Dale is the Deputy Coordination Director for the [AHSN Network] (https://www.ahsnnetwork.com/), a senior leader, supporting the development of cross-AHSN collaboration. She has over twenty years' experience in the NHS, including more than fifteen years in improvement, transformation and spread of innovation. She led the national Learning Network for Covid Oximetry @home and Covid Virtual Wards.

Catherine has a Master's in Business Psychology and is an expert on co-designing improvements with patients and applying behavioural insights to healthcare. She is a Trustee for the Point of Care Foundation and helped develop their [Experience-Based Co-Design toolkit] (https://www.pointofcarefoundation.org.uk/resource/experience-based-co-design-ebcd-toolkit)

Catherine was a Labour Councillor in the London Borough of Southwark from 2014-2018. She is also the co-host of the podcast [Looking After the NHS] (https://healthinnovationnetwork.com/insight/looking-after-the-nhs/)

Alisha Davies

Alisa Davies is Public Health Lead at The Alan Turing Institute & Head of Research & Evaluation at Public Health Wales NHS Trust.

Alisha is a strategic leader in public health research and evaluation, informing health policy and practice at a local and national level, with over 20 years' experience across the NHS, Local Government, and health policy think tanks. Her career spans the prevention of poor health and inequalities, including digital health equity. Alisha is an NHS Consultant in Public Health and interested in the opportunities to advance innovation in digital health, data science and AI for public health. She holds postgraduate degrees in epidemiology, demography and public health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and an Honorary Professorship at Swansea University.

Morag Hearty

Morag Hearty is currently National Strategic Lead for Remote Health Pathways within Technology Enabled Care, Scottish Government Digital Health & Care Directorate.

This has included the Scale up BP Primary Care programme, Covid-19 symptom monitoring and several other priority conditions contributing to key national strategic priorities and the response and recovery delivery plans across Scotland.

Using the Scottish Approach to Service Design ensures all national Remote Health pathways are designed collaboratively with key stakeholders to enable widespread adoption across NHS Scotland boards.

Morag has participated in several European projects and knowledge exchange visits within the Scottish International Engagement programme. This has included a recent collaboration with WHO

European Region and NHS England in a mission to Georgia to explore rural Telemedicine developments and opportunities.

Daniel Lasserson

Dan Lasserson is Professor of Acute Ambulatory Care at the University of Warwick, working clinically in acute ambulatory care and the hospital at home service for Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, and is the President of the UK Hospital at Home Society. He has previously worked in primary care as well as hospital medicine and is the Theme Lead for Acute Care Interfaces in the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) West Midlands. He is also Theme lead for Acute Ambulatory Care in the NIHR Community Healthcare MedTech and In-Vitro Diagnostic Cooperative (MIC) and has an interest in how point-of-care diagnostics can support acute care decision making. He is the chief investigator of an NIHR Policy Research Programme study examining the optimal acute medical care delivery model during winter and waves of COVID-19. He leads the NIHR STOPAPE trial on the management of sub-segmental pulmonary embolism, an NIHR PRP funded study on how Acute Hospital at Home models can expand their scope of clinical work and sits on the Clinical Reference Group for NHS England's Virtual Ward/Hospital at Home Programme. He has led the Society for Acute Medicine national hospital benchmarking audit (SAMBA) and now sits on the Society for Acute Medicine's Research Committee as well as the Editorial Board of the Acute Medicine Journal.

Geraint Lewis

Geraint Lewis is the Director of Population Health at Microsoft. With 11 years' experience working as a doctor in acute and emergency medicine, followed by 5 years' higher specialist training in public health, Geraint is a consultant public health physician with a specialist interest in predictive modelling and population health management. His previous roles include Senior Fellow of the Nuffield Trust; Senior Director for Outcomes and Analytics at Walgreens; and Chief Data Officer at NHS England.

A fellow of both the Royal College of Physicians of London and the UK Faculty of Public Health, he is the lead author of the postgraduate textbook 'Mastering Public Health' and has published over 40 peer-reviewed papers in high impact journals including Health Affairs, JAMA, and the BMJ. Geraint was a Commonwealth Fund Harkness Fellow in Healthcare Policy and Practice at New York University. His awards include the National Directors' Award at the US Department of Veterans' Affairs; the Bradshaw Lectureship of the Royal College of Physicians of London; overall winner of the Guardian Newspaper's Public Service Awards; and an unprecedented four Health Service Journal awards for the Virtual Wards project that he conceived and led.

Steve Peddie

Steve Peddie has worked in a wide variety of roles in local government over nearly 40 years, including Executive Director roles covering Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Public Health and Housing. He currently has a national leadership role around promoting digital technology in Adult Social Care, as a Care and Health Improvement Adviser at the Local Government Association and is a partner Senior Adviser to the NHS Transformation Directorate (NHSE and DHSC), largely working on digitising social care.

Steve is also currently director of Dorset Council's Reform Programme.

Steve remains a registered social worker and is committed to close cross-organisational collaboration and championing innovation that helps people who draw on care and support to have a life, not a service.

Rebecca Rosen

Rebecca Rosen is a Senior Clinical Fellow at the Nuffield Trust where her research interests focus on primary care; organisational models for general practice and digital technology in general practice. Rebecca originally trained in public health and health services research and subsequently qualified as a GP. She has been a GP in South East London for over 20 years and has a particular interest in continuity of care. She also has practical experience of clinical commissioning and was co-lead of an integrated care pioneer programme in Greenwich. She is the chair of a small charity promoting dialogue and understanding between artists and scientists.

David Russell

David Russell is the deputy director for the national Virtual Wards programme in NHS England which is aiming to deliver 40-50 virtual ward 'beds' per 100k population. Previously David has worked in NHS strategy and policy including supporting the development of the NHS Long Term Plan and People Plan. Additional national NHS leadership roles include the rollout of urgent community response teams and healthy new towns. Previous roles have also included delivery of innovative support programmes across the charity and social care sectors. David is the chair of trustees for the intergenerational arts charity Magic Me, has a MSc in healthcare leadership and an MA in Modern Literary Studies.

Mark Salmon

Mark Salmon is Programme Director at NICE leading on their virtual wards work.

Alyson Scurfield

Alyson Scurfield is well known as an energetic and visionary leader of service transformation, service delivery and business development in the digital health and care sectors. She is currently the Chief Executive of the TEC Services Association (TSA) and its subsidiary TEC Quality.

As a key influencer and thought leader, Alyson has held a number of key leadership positions, focusing on driving standards and quality improvement both via TSA involvement in policy development and in setting sector service quality benchmarks in the UK and across Europe with TEC Quality and UKAS. Alyson is also committed to shaping the future direction of our ageing society as a Trustee of the International Longevity Centre, the UK's specialist think tank on the impact of longevity on society.

Alyson is also leading the strategic development, implementation and risk management of the TSA's defined 2025 vision to grow the TEC industry into new markets, and how TEC can play a critical role in improving wider population health whilst simultaneously focusing on improvement of individual wellbeing by placing people, their families and carers firmly at the centre of these technology enabled care solutions.

Passionate about how the use of technology can transform care, Alyson is also driving the industry agenda for quality and continuous improvement with the TEC Quality standards framework to support the vision of a holistic population health that supports better outcomes for people. Alyson's vision for TSA is to continue playing a key role in driving innovation to achieve integration of health, housing and social care, while actively campaigning for solutions to be consistent, irrespective of people's health, ability to pay or location.

She is delighted to be working in partnership with NHSX, Local Government Association, LGA and the Care Alliance on the newly formed Digital Social Care Strategic Advisory group to influence the overall vision and road map for digital social care.

Katie Thorn

Katie Thorn is the Digital Engagement Manager at the National Care Association and project lead for Digital Social Care, a partnership project between the Care Provider Alliance and the NHS Transformation Directorate.

For social care providers, by social care providers Digital Social Care provides free guidance and support on technology to adult social care providers across England. Our aim is to empower people working in social care to unlock the potential in technology, to make informed decisions around purchasing, and to have good data protection and cyber security practices.

Margaret Whoriskey

Margaret Whoriskey is Head of Technology Enabled Care and Digital Healthcare Innovation within Digital Health and Care Directorate at Scottish Government. She is responsible for the national cross sector TEC Programme in partnership with the NHS, Local Government, Third, Housing and Independent sector providers, which is aiming to support at scale deployment in Scotland . This is centred around the citizen, and focuses on improving access to services by using digital technologies, including the ability to self-manage remotely.

Margaret leads the national Digital Health and Care Fest in Scotland, proving a national and international focus to developments in Scotland. She is active in the European arena and is responsible for the International Engagement Team for digital health and care.

Margaret is a Trustee /Board member of ENABLE Scotland and Hanover Housing Association.

Margaret received the Digital Leader 2023 award (Health and Care)