

Reset Ethics Research Project : Stakeholder Newsletter #1 February 2021

Hello! – Dr Lucy Frith
PI



Thank you for supporting us to explore the ethical issues faced by those working in the UK NHS as it attempts to 'reset' normal services alongside coping with the Covid 19 pandemic. This is the first of our periodic newsletters to keep you in touch with our progress.

We are focusing on paediatric and maternity services. These two areas were chosen because:

- Children have not so far been as susceptible to the virus. Mutual aid aside, there was a strong sense in which children's services could have continued virtually as normal.
- Maternity services could not be suspended and had to adapt quickly to the havoc visited by the pandemic.

We are interviewing managers, frontline professionals and patient groups in these two areas to determine what their perceptions are of the ethical conflicts faced. Our aim is to generate a practical ethical framework and training materials to guide practice in this area.

We have now recruited six NHS sites around England and interviews are well underway. Our research fellow – Dr Caroline reports on this in our next item. We have now completed our rapid review and Dr Anna Chiumento has provided a summary of the work we have now submitted for publication.

Thank you again for your help.

Recruitment update – Dr Caroline
Redhead



Hello again to those of you I have met. For those of you who don't know me, I am the research fellow on the project and will be conducting most of the interviews.

The rest of the research team includes Lucy, obviously as opposite, and Dr Anna Chiumento – we are all based at the University of Liverpool, and Professor Heather Draper and Dr Paul Baines (University of Warwick) and Professor Sara Fovargue (Lancaster University).

We are now working with six sites – which was our target. Thanks to everyone for their help in securing the various permissions. Recruitment of participants has been easier at some sites than others. We do appreciate how busy everyone is. We are aiming to speak to around 10 participants at each site on two occasions a couple of months apart. We need to do this by the end of April. The table below provides a breakdown by site (as 3/2/2021).

If anyone reading this would like to participate, the link to the project website is [here](#) or email me at c.a.b.redhead@liverpool.ac.uk

Trust	Date recruitment started	Interviews completed to date	Expressions of interest
Trust A	5.12.20	5	1
Trust B	7.10.20	2	
Trust C	5.11.20	8	5
Trust D	25.1.21	0	1
Trust E	2.2.21	0	
Trust F	Not yet recruiting		



Summary of the rapid review

Dr Anna Chiumento

Between September and October 2020 we conducted a rapid review of academic and grey-literature to identify the ethical values guiding decisions about restarting non-Covid-19 NHS services. We focussed on paediatric surgery and maternity care. We chose these areas because maternity care cannot be suspended, and because of the secondary-effects of cancelled surgery on children's health and wellbeing. We also recognised the impact restrictions on visiting can have on patients and their families and caregivers which impacts both maternity and paediatric care.

Our review identified 37 sources for analysis. These sources included government documents such as letters directing NHS Trusts to re-start services after they were suspended to focus on Covid-19 care; guidelines, statements and ethical frameworks developed by professional bodies; and commentary and blog pieces written by practitioners and academics. We have written-up our findings from this rapid review for publication, and will update when this becomes available.

This rapid review forms the first phase of the Reset Ethics project. It provides us with a broad sense of official statements and documents intended to guide decision-makers grappling with the ethical challenges of re-starting care, alongside managing the ongoing demands of Covid-19 care, and the implications of new infection prevention and control measures. Our findings will be useful to policy makers and those producing documents to guide decision-makers as the NHS adjusts to the "new normal". We will continue to consider and integrate what we have learnt from this rapid review with the ongoing interviews and group discussions with maternity and paediatric services stakeholders as our project continues to develop.

Dissemination

Baines, P, Draper, H, Chiumento, A, Fovargue, S, Frith, L
COVID-19 and beyond: the ethical challenges after public health emergencies. *Journal of Medical Ethics* 46(11) 715-716

Caroline Redhead will be presenting our paper entitled 'Relationships, Rights and Responsibilities: (Re)viewing the NHS Constitution for the post-pandemic 'new normal'' at the [Socio-Legal Studies Association 2021 conference](#)

