

Reset Ethics Research Project : Stakeholder Newsletter #2 May 2021

Hello again! – Dr Lucy Frith PI



Thank you for continuing to support our research exploring 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.

We are focusing on paediatric and maternity services because:

- although children have been less susceptible to COVID-19, infection control has significantly changed their care; and
- maternity services could not be suspended and have had to adapt quickly to the havoc visited by the pandemic.

We are still interviewing senior managers, doctors, nurses and midwives at our six participating Trusts – see Caroline's update for more information. In addition, we are recruiting to our public focus groups now. Our new team member, Carol Gray, sets out more information below.

Our findings are already having impact. Our interview participants' reflections have informed our [response to the Government's COVID-status certification review](#) in which we discuss the pros and cons of status certification and suggest, amongst other things, that:

- that a certification scheme must not operate as a barrier to healthcare services, and that healthcare professionals must not be required to enforce it;
- that the justification for, and the values underpinning, any such scheme will need to be clearly articulated; and
- that the scheme will have to be consciously designed around, and reflect, the values on which it is based.

Catch up on current work in progress below.

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 a research fellow on the project and will be conducting most of the interviews. If you have colleagues in maternity and paediatrics who would be interested in participating please encourage them to get in touch with me. We will be recruiting until the end of May 2021. The table below shows how many interviews we have conducted to date –and who we would like to hear from

Trust	Interviews completed to date	Who we'd be interested in hearing from
Trust A	13	Junior nurses in paediatric surgery /critical care
Trust B	3	Senior managers, doctors (obstetrics), nurses, midwives
Trust C	13	Midwives, junior nurses
Trust D	3	Senior managers, doctors, junior nurses and midwives
Trust E	1	Senior managers, doctors, nurses and midwives (across all hospitals).
Trust F	Recruitment starting soon!	Senior managers, doctors, nurses in anticipation of recruitment starting soon. See our website for info!

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



**Public focus groups – we are recruiting in your Trust area.
Can you help?**



Hello! I'm Carol Gray. I have just joined the Reset Ethics team. I have responsibility for recruiting to and conducting our public focus groups.

I would like to speak to people who have had experience of using paediatric or maternity services during the pandemic and who would be interested in joining a focus group (a group of up to 10 people) to discuss their perceptions of policy-making and transparent decision-making during the pandemic.

You can read our focus group [recruitment information](#) here.

FIND OUT MORE

To learn more about participating in the public focus groups, please contact me (Carol Gray) by emailing

reseteth@liverpool.ac.uk



Caroline presented 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](#)

This paper looks to the 'post-vaccination new normal' as a balancing act, involving care for COVID-19 and non-COVID patients, infection control, the ongoing vaccination programme and clearing the log-jam of treatments that have been cancelled or postponed. Fitting together the jigsaw of priorities **fairly** will be crucial. We suggest that the underused NHS Constitution offers a useful framework to support a conversation about what is fair and why.

Work in progress

Our manuscript entitled "*Which ethical values underpin England's National Health Service reset of paediatric and maternity services following COVID-19: a rapid review*" has now been peer reviewed and is being considered for publication.

We are collaborating with the Nuffield Council for Bioethics on a blog that will consider the far-reaching effects of infection prevention and control measures on the way care is experienced by staff, patients and families in paediatric and maternity services. This is informed by the reflections of our interview participants.