

NHS-HE Forum

Notes and actions from the Thirteenth Meeting on 21st November, 2007

1. Attendees

Prof Roland Rosner welcomed the 30 attendees as listed at:

<http://www.nhs-he.org.uk/NHS-HE%20Forum%2021st%20Nov%2007%20Attending%20List%20web.pdf>

Unfortunately Phil Walker had phoned to say that he was unable to attend (this being the morning that the missing HMRC CDs hit the headlines and Phil had to give a series of Department of Health briefings on this).

2. Notes from previous meeting on 10th May, 2007

These were noted. No actions to report on and main issues updated on the agenda.

3. NHS IT and HE IT - how similar? Ten Golden Rules that apply to both

Ted Woodhouse gave an insightful and amusing presentation based on his extensive experience with the NHS, other public sector organisations and working with Higher Education. Highly quotable!

See presentation at

<http://www.nhs-he.org.uk/NHSHEforum10rulesx2presnov07.pdf>

4. N3 JANET Gateway: Current Position Summary

Malcolm Teague reported that the N3 JANET Gateway went live in November and is being used for early adopters for sessions initiated within N3 and not involving patient identifiable data.

See presentation at

<http://www.nhs-he.org.uk/MT%20N3%20JANET%20Gateway%20Update%20211107.pdf>

5. N3 JANET Gateway: University of Bristol Early Adopter

Martin van Eker gave the background to the University of Bristol, with the University of the West of England, being an early adopter for use with their Clinical Academies at NHS Trusts in Avon, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire. It was early days yet but they have switched over the Weston academy to use the Gateway so far.

See presentation at:

<http://www.nhs-he.org.uk/NHS%20-20HE%%20forum%20Nov%202007%20UoB.pdf>

6. N3 JANET Gateway: University of Newcastle/ CETL4HealthNE

Tony McDonald said that their main use of the Gateway will be the videoconferencing when available so there is not much to report as yet. Like Bristol they have a series of "Base Units" for health students on clinical placement in NHS Trusts. He has presented on the N3 JANET Gateway to a number of audiences and the feedback has been positive. He sees the Gateway as an enabler for what the Strategic Health Authority want to do.

7. N3 JANET Gateway: Planned Developments & Discussion

Malcolm Teague outlined how the project was expected to develop. It was noted that the information governance issues varied by whether the sessions were initiated with N3 or JANET and whether patient identifiable data is involved. These would be viewed as separate streams of activity. Anyone with an idea for a further early adopter are asked to get in touch.

In the discussion it was raised that the availability of bandwidth on to N3 from the NHS organisation may become an issue as the use of national NHS systems increases.

See presentation at

<http://www.nhs-he.org.uk/MT%20N3%20JANET%20Gateway%20Next%20211107.pdf>

8. The MRC e-Science Projects with specific example of PsyGRID

John Ainsworth outlined the range of MRC supported e-Science projects before concentrating on the arrangements for PsyGRID. The open source system that has been developed for PsyGRID is adopted by all members of the UK Mental Health Research Network (MHRN) and is to be trialled for use in two diabetes studies. John described the approach taken with risk assessment and how this led to the deployment architecture. The system is housed with the LAN of the Central Manchester and Manchester Children's Hospital NHS Trust. This is available via a VPN Gateway from the internet.

See presentation at

<http://www.nhs-he.org.uk/MRC-NHS-HE-forum-November-07.pdf>

9. Emerging Themes from the Department of Health Review of NHS Library Services

Prof Peter Hill described the main principles and issues emerging in his review of NHS Library Services in England. Improved collaboration between the NHS and Higher Education was a key aspect.

[The review has since been published at the end of February 2008 and is available at <http://www.library.nhs.uk/aboutnlh/review>]

10. NHS-HE Content Update

Paul Ayris outlined some of the suggestions made to the NHS Library Service Review. In particular the opportunity to:

- Put the Content work of NHS and HE partners on a formal, national basis
- Embrace open access
- Identify a new framework for collaborative library activities between HE and the NHS in all home countries
- Advocate technical solutions for joint connectivity which have already been identified by the NHS-HE Forum

See presentation at

<http://www.nhs-he.org.uk/paul-ayris.pdf>

11. Results of the Newcastle Federated Access Management Survey

Tony McDonald gave an overview of the context and results of a survey on the NHS HE issues in Federated Access Management and web resources such as e-journals. There were 118 survey responses. "Too many passwords" was the highest reported issue (29%), followed by "Slow access" (16%). The conclusions and interim recommendation include the move to generic single sign-on and use of a federated access model.

See presentation at

<http://www.nhs-he.org.uk/TM-NHS-HE%20forum%20presentation%20Wed%20November%2021%20%202007.pdf>

12. Closing Remarks

Prof Rosner thanked everyone for attending and for their comments and interaction. It was agreed to have a further meeting in 6 months time. Suggested topics include:

- Plans for the N3 JANET Gateway
- Reports from Gateway pathfinders
- Update on the NHS Library Review
- NHS IT developments
- Update on authentication
- Update on the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)

13. Next meeting: May 2008 (to be arranged, later 14th May agreed)