

## Assisted Dying Public Engagement Project

### Meeting 3 – Advisory Board Meeting minutes

11th March 2024, 2 - 4:15pm, online via Microsoft Teams

#### **Attendance – Advisory Board members:**

Anne Kerr (Chair), Professor of Science and Technology Studies and Head of School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Glasgow; NCOB Council member

Clare Chambers, Professor of Political Philosophy, University of Cambridge; NCOB Council member

Sarah Cunningham-Burley, Professor of Medical and Family Sociology / Dean of Molecular, Genetic and Population Health Sciences, The University of Edinburgh; NCOB Chair-elect (January 2024)

Suzanne Hall, Director of Engagement, The Policy Institute, King's College London

Rachel Lopata, Freelance Researcher

Malcolm Oswald, Director, Citizen' Juries c.i.c; Honorary Research Fellow in Law, University of Manchester

Michael Reiss, Professor of Science Education, Institute of Education, University College London; NCOB Council member

Holly Rogers, Head of Engagement, Academy of Medical Sciences

Selena Stellman, General Practitioner; NCOB Council member

#### **Nuffield Council on Bioethics (NCOB)**

Molly Gray, Project Manager

Rebecca Mussell, Associate Director, Research and Policy

Cris Cloyd, External Affairs Manager

#### **Hopkins Van Mil (HVM)**

Henrietta Hopkins, Director

Hally Ingram, Senior Associate

Kate Furber, Researcher

#### **M.E.L. Research**

Kirsty Marshall, Associate Director, Research and Policy

#### **Independent evaluation:**

Leah Holmes, Independent Evaluator

1. Welcome and introductions
  - Minutes approved.
2. Content Group meetings update
  - The second Content Group meeting took place on 23 February 2024.

- An update was given on the matters discussed in this meeting, including:
  - i. The content of stimulus materials for the Jury and ensuring this is accessible, balanced, and factually accurate.
  - ii. A list of potential speakers for the Jury.
  - iii. It was confirmed that the Advisory Board will also review the speaker list.

### 3. Survey 1

- M.E.L Research provided an update on Survey 1.
  - i. Discussed the survey process and further analysis that needs to be completed.

### 4. Citizens' Jury design

- HVM provided an update on Jury member recruitment and working with The Sortition Foundation.
  - i. *Paper 1 – Draft Recruitment Criteria* was shared with the Advisory Board ahead of the meeting.
  - ii. It was noted that there has been good uptake of those who have expressed interest in participating, which fulfils the range of demographic criteria.
  - iii. The Board noted the importance of adding further categories within the criteria for older age groups.
  - iv. Discussed the importance of balancing inclusivity for deliberation whilst maintaining broad representation across the criteria.
  - v. It was noted that there may be a need to be flexible and prioritise particular categories depending on the uptake of those who express interest.
  - vi. Board members advised that we should not intentionally oversample for minority attitudes on assisted dying since this would mean that the sample would no longer be broadly representative of attitudes towards assisted dying. It was advised that setting minimum quotas for these categories would be sensible to ensure under-sampling does not occur whilst ensuring broad representation of attitudes.
- HVM provided an update on the stimulus materials and speaker selection process.
  - i. *Paper 2 – Stimulus materials and Jury speaker update* was shared with the Advisory Board ahead of the meeting.
  - ii. It was confirmed that celebrities or high-profile figures who had recently been in the media around the debate would not be speakers.
  - iii. It was confirmed that a balance of campaign groups will be invited to write a briefing paper (using a pre-designed template)

outlining their perspectives for jurors and participate in a moderated Q&A panel.

- iv. It was confirmed that HVM will run speaker briefing sessions via Zoom and provide detailed written briefing documents to all speakers, which the Content Group will review.
  - v. Group discussion on the speaker selection criteria and the importance of selecting speakers who closely match the selection criteria.
- HVM talked through different approaches towards observers at the Jury.
    - i. Group discussion on the role and practicalities of observers in the sessions and the importance of protecting the deliberation process, the wellbeing of Jury members, and maintaining transparency of the process.
    - ii. It was agreed that the number of observers should be limited in each session to ensure the appropriate balance of observers vs Jury members.
    - iii. It was noted that advisory board members should act as observers during the sessions to ensure transparency and oversight of the process.
    - iv. **Action (HVM and NCOB):** further consider when it would be appropriate to have observers throughout the Jury sessions and who these observers should be.

## 5. Film output

- HVM shared a presentation about the plan for working with Postcode Films to produce a film on the Jury.
- Group discussion on the framework for the film and what the film should include and exclude. It was highlighted that the consent and well-being of participants when filming the video is a priority.

## 6. Stakeholder management and communications

- NCOB shared the following updates and plans for stakeholder engagement and communications:
  - i. The project was highlighted in an article on assisted dying by Emily Jackson in the Financial Times on 9 March 2024.
  - ii. A news story with project updates, including Juror recruitment, was published on the NCOB Assisted Dying Project webpage on 27 February 2024.
  - iii. The NCOB project team continues meeting with parliamentarians to raise awareness of the project.
  - iv. The NCOB project team have been invited to present the project to the Civil Service Participatory Methods Forum.
  - v. When the Citizens' Jury begins, the NCOB will publish a news story sharing this update.
- Group discussion on wider communications plans.



- Agreed that it would be good to have feedback on the project from the meeting with the Participatory Methods Forum.

## 7. Evaluation

- Dr Leah Holmes (independent evaluator) provided an update on the progress of the evaluation and plans for incorporating juror feedback into the evaluation process.
- It was confirmed that the summative report will be completed at the end of the project.

## 8. AOB and next steps

- **Action (NCOB):** set up an additional meeting with Advisory Board members for the w/c 18<sup>th</sup> March for Advisory Board members to review the speaker list.
- It was confirmed that the final Advisory Board meeting will be held at the end of July and will be in person.
- It was suggested that Jurors could be provided with the names of observers for each session to minimise the risk of jurors being known to them.