DRAFT

Terms of Reference

Brexit Health Alliance

Purpose:
As the formal process of leaving the EU gets underway, and in view of the changes it will generate, it is critically important to ensure that patient care, population health and well-being will be protected and to avoid instability to the health and public health sectors. For this reason, we are establishing the Brexit Health Alliance so that those who use health services, healthcare commissioners and providers, educators, researchers, the healthcare industry and those working to improve population health and well-being and to reduce inequalities in health can have a strong collective voice in the Brexit debate and are able to brief negotiators in the most effective way.

The alliance will not take any stance on the merits or otherwise of Brexit. Its aim will be to act as a positive and evidence-based voice on health issues in shaping the future and to make sure that we are in the strongest possible position once the UK leaves the EU.

It will do this by:

- Providing a unified voice for its member organisations on issues relating to Brexit
- Focussing on key issues which will affect those who use services, healthcare commissioners and providers, educators, researchers, industry, and those working to improve population health and well-being and reduce inequalities in health
- Informing the Government’s position during the negotiations with the European Union
- Briefing UK and EU negotiators using a range of channels
- Building partnerships with other sectors to strengthen our ability to influence developing positions
- Shaping the policy and regulatory landscape which will emerge post the UK’s exit
- Complementing the work of the Cavendish Coalition (http://www.nhsemployers.org/your-workforce/need-to-know/brexit-and-the-nhs-eu-workforce/the-cavendish-coalition), which is dealing with workforce supply issues for the health and social care sector in the Brexit debate.

Strands of work:
The alliance will focus on the following strands of work which have been identified as areas for joint activities by the organisations in membership:

**Research and innovation** – Ensure that patients and the public can fully benefit from a wide range of collaborative activities in clinical research and innovation between UK organisations and their counterparts in Europe post-Brexit.

**Health technology regulation** - Avoid disruption in the supply of medicines and other health technologies when we leave the EU, as well as ensure that UK patients and the public can benefit from early access to the wide range of innovative medicines, medical devices and diagnostics available on the EU market and from participation in EU clinical trials after Brexit.
**Public health** – Ensure a high level of population health is maintained through some form of access to EU coordination mechanisms and networks, such as those of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and EU coordinated management of health threats, as well as a rights based approach to health and high standards of consumer protection.

**Funding** - With our healthcare sector facing an unprecedented financial challenge, the alliance will try to ensure that any potential additional pressure which may result from Brexit is minimised, as well as advocate for any loss of EU funds for the sector to be offset by alternative funding.

**Reciprocal healthcare rights** - Ensure that UK nationals living in the EU, and vice versa, can benefit from easy and affordable access to healthcare abroad post-Brexit. In the event this could not be achieved, provision for healthcare domestically (e.g. for UK pensioners currently living in Southern Europe) should be planned and funded.

**Membership:**

The membership of the alliance is composed of organisations from across the UK, with representation from the NHS, the research sector, patients groups, the voluntary sector, industry and public health.

The founding members of the alliance (in alphabetic order) are:

- Academy Of Medical Royal Colleges
- Academy of Medical Research Charities (tbc)
- Association of British Healthcare Industries
- Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries
- Association of UK University Hospitals
- Bio Industry Association
- Faculty of Public Health
- National Voices
- NHS Confederation (and its Networks)
- NHS Providers
- Northern Ireland Confederation
- Richmond Group of charities
- Welsh NHS Confederation

To keep the alliance manageable, the intention is to limit the number of members to organisations which add significant value in delivering the alliance’s objectives and contributing to the agreed areas of work. To this end, objective criteria for membership will be agreed. All members will be expected to undertake and/or contribute resources to activities on behalf of the alliance, recognising the different capacity of members.

**Governance:**

The alliance is a voluntary initiative of its member organisations, which will remain in operation for the duration of the UK negotiations with the EU and/or until a satisfactory solution has been found to the issues identified above.

The positions of the alliance will be agreed in a consensual way. This means that in case of disagreement members will resolve this in a respectful way, recognising and accepting that the positions have to reflect a range of perspectives.
Taking into consideration the likelihood that the alliance may have to provide views or comments quickly, lines to take will be agreed collectively at the outset as far as possible. Members are committed to respond promptly when asked for views to shape lines/positions of the alliance.

Individual members are at liberty to issue their own policy positions and to conduct their own activities and campaigns on Brexit, ensuring that they are not in conflict with the messages and work of the alliance.

Members will support and disseminate the positions of the alliance to maximise message impact and will follow shared agreed messaging when speaking on behalf of the alliance.

**Ways of working:**

The NHS Confederation will provide the secretariat of the alliance, convening meetings, drafting papers and facilitating communication between members.

The alliance will be co-chaired by Sir Hugh Taylor, former Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health, and Niall Dickson, Chief Executive of the NHS Confederation. The chairmanship will mainly involve chairing the meetings of the alliance and acting as spokesperson.

Meetings will be held quarterly and attendance will be at CEO/Chair level, or senior nominated representatives.

These terms of reference will be reviewed annually and amended when necessary.