**Independent SAGE Behavioural Advisory Group**

**First Team Meeting Minutes**

**Time/Date/Location:** 5pm-6pm BST - 09/06/2020 via Zoom

**Attendees:** Val Curtis, John Drury, Susan Michie, Ann Phoenix, Steve Reicher, Liz Stokoe, Robert West, Zack King.

**Apologies**: Imran Awan

**Agenda**

1. Brief intros from group members                                              5 mins
2. Intro on Independent SAGE (Zack) and questions                10 mins
3. Intro on press                                                            5 mins
4. How we operate                                                                             10 mins
5. Additional members                                                                       5 mins
6. TTI                                                                                                      15 mins
7. Other priorities                                                                                5 mins
8. AOB                                                                                                    5 mins

**Discussion**

1. **Brief intros from group members**

Members introduced themselves, with apologies from Imran Awan. It was noted that we are currently 8 members. Three others had been invited, all were favourable, but were unable to join now due to other commitments. However, the invitation to join had been left open.

1. **Intro on Independent SAGE and questions**

Zack King introduced the work of Independent SAGE (iSAGE) to date. This is based on informal meetings of the main group who, to date have produced four reports, the latest of these being on the testing process. The next focus is likely to be on BAME issues. Additionally, iSAGE has used its media contacts to conduct media events and public consultations. Our new group can feed into the work of iSAGE in a number of ways:

* Through adding a behavioural science dimension to iSAGE papers
* Through producing our own papers and reports, but discussing them with the overall group and publish under the aegis of iSAGE.
* Through conducting our own media and public events, but involving members of iSAGE (particularly Sir David King) on them

In terms of process, our group will meet separately and feed into iSAGE through Susan Michie and Steve Reicher who currently belong to the main group. However the identity of those in the main group is open to discussion in future meetings.

1. **Intro on Press**

Zack King introduced this item, stressing that both he (and his PR company) and Carole Cadwalladr handled press issues and that we can use both of them when we want to involve the press in our activities.

Zack and Carole work together on press side. Most press relations are undertaken via Zack and his PR firm.

1. **How we operate**

It was agreed that we should meet weekly for 1 hour, Tuesday 5-6pm BST. Other work will be on an ad hoc basis outside that time, depending on the current priorities of the group. Elizabeth Stokoe will send out zoom invites to participants.

Minutes will be taken and circulated by Savannah in draft form. Once confirmed they will be forwarded to the main iSAGE.

It was agreed that Steve Reicher will convene and chair the group, though this is open to discussion in the future.

It was also agreed that we need to establish a means of communication and posting relevant material – one possibility being a WhatsApp group. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Finally, it was suggested that we make a rolling list of key issues and potential papers for the group to work on. One idea was to focus on how to build leadership and trust. Another priority will be to consider BAME issues.

1. **Additional members**

It was agreed that we do have room for some expansion but would not want to go much above a dozen members. For now there was no proposal to include specific individuals; however as we progress we may want to include people with specific forms of expertise. One immediate idea was for someone who can do Twitter scraping to assess public sentiment. This led to a discussion on the importance of collating polling information. It was suggested that Savannah collates this information and posts it for the whole group. Zack King also mentioned his links to pollsters and the possibility of doing our own polling.

1. **TTI**

The iSAGE draft FTTIS report has been sent round. There was a general discussion of the paper and a number of points were made with a focus on issues of trust, on the need to involve community in the development of policy and the need to examine the impact of the system on different groups (e.g. what are the implications of isolation in multi-generational households. In addition a number of specific points were made about the need to address the position of the homeless and of those who are technologically impoverished; the need to focus more on the practicalities of isolation; the importance of providing active support for those who do isolate, and the need to think in terms of systems.

The deadline for amendments is 5pm on Friday 12th. Comments should be given to Steve Reicher by noon on the 11th so he can collate and then forward to the main group.

1. **AOB**

For next week, there will be an initial discussion around inequalities: issues, priorities, policies.

Link from today: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_4v3wODk04>

**Action points:**

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| **Action points** | **Person** | **Deadline** |
| Formally request to iSAGE for links to be Susan + Steve | Susan/Zack | As soon as practicable |
| Look into polling/Twitter scrape | Savannah | 16/06/2020 |
| Send comments on report to Steve | All | 11/06/2020 - Thursday lunchtime |
| Send report with collated BeSci iSAGE input to iSAGE | Steve | 12/06/2020 - Friday 5pm |
| Send out recurring Zoom invitation via outlook | Liz | 16/06/2020 |
| Create WhatsApp group | Savannah | 16/06/2020 |
| Add to next week’s agenda:  Discussion around equalities +  documentation (what we have and how to best store it) | Steve | 16/06/2020 |