



[COUNCIL PAPER 16052022-7]

## Information Specialist Executive report for Council 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022

### Activities

- We held our regular IS Executive Meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>
- We held a virtual IS Coffee Meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup> which provided an opportunity for Information Specialists to meet online and raise any issues or concerns.
- The first joint meeting of the Cochrane Information Retrieval Methods Group (IRMG) and the IS Exec was held on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Amongst other issues, we discussed the recruitment of the post of Cochrane Information Specialist Co-Convenor for the IRMG; the impact of the loss of the IS support team and issues of mutual concern around future Cochrane developments.
- We held a constructive and supportive meeting with Toby Lasserson, Deputy Editor in Chief, Cochrane Library on May 5<sup>th</sup>. We discussed issues related to the future of Information specialist in the new Cochrane structure.

### Future activities

- Meeting with UK based IS at the Cochrane UK in Manchester in May - Cochrane: collaborating for the future.
- Further meetings with Robin Featherstone (Cochrane Editorial and Methods Department) and Anna Noel-Storr (Central Executive) on possible future employment for Information Specialist by the Central team rather than in Evidence Synthesis Units.
- Webinar on Search Tools as part of the collaborative Continuing Professional Development series with NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) CADTH (Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health) and AHRQ EPC (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality / Evidence-based Practice Centres) 11<sup>th</sup> May
- The next IS Exec is scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> May

### Challenges

- Dealing with the uncertainty around the *Future of Evidence Synthesis* and its impact on Information Specialist.
- Several UK based Information Specialist have already left Cochrane due to the uncertainty around the future of UK based Cochrane groups. This is an issue of significant concern for Cochrane and does impact directly on the sustainability of the Executive going forward.
- Communication and real engagement with Executives is essential to ensure the success of the proposed changes to Cochrane

### Priorities

Representing and communicating with all IS on the future of Cochrane during a period of significant change.