

# ***Editorial Independence & Efficiency Project***

**Karla Soares-Weiser**  
**Editor in Chief**  
**June 2021**

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**Better health.**



# Agenda

- Welcome and brief introduction to the project – Karla Soares-Weiser
- Update on project Workstream 1 – Rachel Marshall
- Update on project Workstream 2 – Ruth Foxlee
- Presentations from 3 members of the Cochrane community
- Question & Answer session – All panellists
- Wrap-up

## Panel – Tues 22 June

Karla Soares-Weiser – Editor in Chief

Toby Lasserson – Deputy Editor in Chief

Rachel Marshall – Editorial Lead, Editorial & Methods Dept

Ruth Foxlee – Senior Programme Manager, Editorial & Methods Dept

Vanessa Jordan – Author Rep, Cochrane Council; Assoc. Director, Cochrane New Zealand

Vanessa Piechotta – Managing Editor, Cochrane Haematology

Robert Boyle – Co-ordinating Editor, Cochrane Skin; Senior Editor, Children & Families and Mental Health & Neuroscience Networks



## Panel – Thurs 24 June

Karla Soares-Weiser – Editor in Chief

Toby Lasserson – Deputy Editor in Chief

Rachel Marshall – Editorial Lead, Editorial & Methods Dept

Ruth Foxlee – Senior Programme Manager, Editorial & Methods Dept

Rachel Plachcinski – Cochrane Consumers' Executive

Roger Soll – Co-ordinating Editor, Cochrane Neonatal

Robert Boyle – Co-ordinating Editor, Cochrane Skin; Senior Editor, Children & Families and Mental Health & Neuroscience Networks



## Q & A instructions

- Add questions to the Q&A panel on the right-hand navigation pane (please do not add questions to the chat section)
- Add questions to Q&A panel at any time during the session
- Vote for the questions you want to be answered at any time during the session
- Questions will be answered by panellists after presentations
- Written answers to all questions (including those not answered in the session) will be added to the [Editorial Independence & Efficiency Project web page](#)

## Aims of this session

- To provide information about the project and answers to your questions
- To hear people's thoughts on the future of producing reviews in Cochrane



# ***Editorial Independence & Efficiency: Workstream 1 update***

**Rachel Marshall**  
**Editorial Lead, Editorial & Methods Department**  
**June 2021**

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## Progress to date

Activity	Date
Project plan approved by the Cochrane Governing Board	March 2021
Implementation plan posted on the project web page	March 2021
Working Group (supporting workstream 1) agreed	April 2021
Feedback received from Cochrane Council and Managing Editors, as well as individual Cochrane members	Ongoing – meeting with ME Exec in April 2021
Recruitment of Managing Editors to the Central Editorial Service	March/April 2021
Five Cochrane Review Groups involved in phase A of the pilot agreed	May 2021



## Progress to date...

Activity	Date
Three meetings of the Working Group	May/June 2021
‘Living’ process document for pilot groups	May 2021
Two Q&A sessions with pilot groups	May/June 2021
Criteria for submission to Central Editorial Service	June 2021
Planning for pilot groups moving to Editorial Manager	June 2021

# Working Group discussion points

- **Peer review**
- **Minimising duplication of effort between CRG and Central Editorial Service**
- **Using CRG content knowledge expertise**
- **Criteria for submission to Editorial Service**
- **Managing ‘poor quality’ submissions to Editorial Service**
- **Timelines for editorial process**
- Handling feedback, amendments and withdrawals
- Development of reviews
- Metrics for evaluation
- Deciding to move to the next phase of the pilot
- Copyediting
- Adjustments to the editorial process for specific review types

# Listening to feedback...

Themes in feedback:

- Why do this?
- Why now?
- Why this model?
- How will people be included?
- Who will do what in the pilot?
- What is in it for CRGs that don't have issues of independence or efficiency?
- How will jobs be affected?
- What are the longer term plans for the pilot?

# Why this model for the pilot: independence?

Other options considered:

- CRGs perform development function and Networks perform editorial function
- Define development and editorial roles internally within CRGs
- CRGs perform only editorial function and don't support authors in development

# Why this model for the pilot: efficiency?

## Poor-quality submissions

Issues/alternatives raised in feedback...

- Author support tools
- Training
- Reduce length and complexity of reviews

Cochrane Review Groups and Managing Editors are left to sort out poor-quality submissions...

# Who will do what in the pilot?

## Editorial service

Editorial  
Assistant

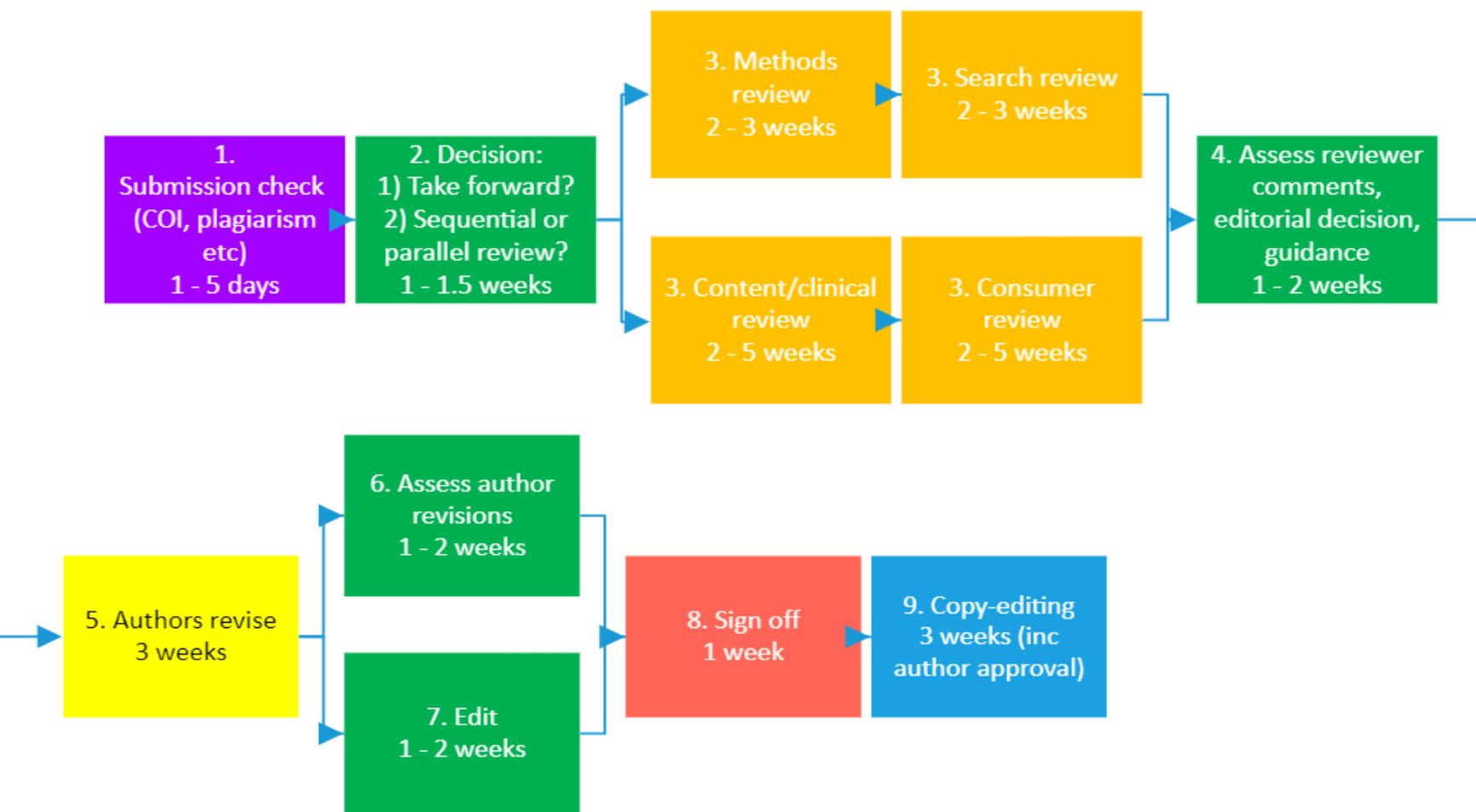
ME

Peer review

Network  
Senior Editor

Copy-editor

Authors



# Who will do what in the pilot?

## CRGs

- Managing portfolio of reviews (prioritising topics for new reviews; prioritising which reviews to update)
- Supporting authors (checking drafts, editing drafts, commissioning and/or connecting teams/mentors, supporting revisions and responses to reviewers)
- Producing reviews (authoring)
- Project management (timings of submissions, co-ordinating input to drafts, managing relationships with commissioners and funders, managing relationships with systematic reviewers)
- Recommending peer reviewers
- Knowledge translation and stakeholder engagement

# What is in it for CRGs that don't have issues of independence or efficiency?

- We're all 'Cochrane'
- Remove burden of conflicting development and editorial functions
- Opportunities for CRG members to become authors and credited for their work
- Policy, guidance, training and systems more tailored to functions
- New opportunities for funding and collaboration



# ***Editorial Independence & Efficiency: Workstream 2 update***

**Ruth Foxlee**  
**Senior Programme Manager, Editorial & Methods Department**  
**June 2021**

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# An evolving project



**Rapidly changing landscape - research funding and publishing**



**Rethinking our model for producing Cochrane Reviews**



**Need for change management expertise**



**Revised consultation plan**



# Revising the consultation plan

## Initial plan:

- Meet with all CRGs individually in 2021
- Focus on CRGs not other Cochrane groups

Challenging  
process in a  
rapidly  
changing  
environment

Revised our  
plan to  
listen to a  
wide range  
of Cochrane  
voices,  
quicker



## New consultation plan – 3 phases

Series of 1-2-1 meetings with subset of CRGs – various countries, networks, topic areas and levels/sources of funding, number of staff, etc. (approx. 25% of CRGs) is underway

Workshops with a number of Cochrane groups – CRG + other groups

Survey to reach the widest possible audience – including our external stakeholder?



## Next steps



**Complete 1-2-1 sessions**



**Meeting with Cochrane Council**



**Set dates for workshops**



**Define our process for presenting the information we gather**

# Continuing to evolve

- Programme vs. project?
  - Central Editorial Service Pilot – workstream well-defined & progressing
  - Consultation – phases 2 & 3 yet to be fully defined but progressing
  - Cochrane evidence synthesis model – work underway, linked to consultation process
  - Implications for preparing and publishing reviews – project not yet well-defined



# Editorial Independence & Efficiency Project page

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## Editorial Independence and Efficiency Project

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- [Editorial Management System](#)
- [Living systematic reviews](#)

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Cochrane is undertaking a project aiming to improve editorial independence and efficiency. There are two workstreams within the project – *Workstream 1 Scaling up and piloting a Central Editorial Service* and *Workstream 2 Consultation with all CRGs on the future of producing reviews in Cochrane*. Full details of the project are included on this page. If you have any questions on the below, please use [this query form](#).

# Question and answer

