**Present:**

Chair: Karen Mead (KM)

Co-chair and minutes: Pedro Valle Vallines (PV)

Members: Amanda Gould (AG), Aimi Baird (AB), Fionnuala Walker (FW), Samantha Bonney (SB), Emily Rich (ER), Carla Dawson (CD), Denise McKeown (DM), Joanne Gregory (JG), Karen Smith (KS), Stuart Lord (SL), Ant Jackson (AJa), Ruth O’Donnell (RO)

Observer: Nawal Madhi (NM)

**Apologies for absence:**

Danny Gaskin (DG), Wendy McSporran (WM).

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|  | **Welcome and apologies**  KM welcomed all attendees.  JG is representing Wales as AJo and LLP could not make it today.  NM is a BMS from Liverpool who is attending as a guest interested in finding out more about the TP role.  KM reported that Joanne Bark and Michaela Rackley have both left the group due to changes in their personal circumstances / job roles. KM noted thanks for their previous involvement in and contributions to the TP SIG. | | |
|  | **Previous minutes and actions** *[action log at end of document]*  Minutes and actions from the last meeting (Dec 2025) were reviewed. KM will catch up with DG outside of the meeting. All other actions were closed. | | |
|  | **BBTS TP Group**   * Bloodlines [BBTS | Bloodlines |](https://www.bbts.org.uk/whatwedo/bloodlines/)   KM explained there is a delay with publication of current issues of Bloodlines. The 151 edition was expected to be published in Dec 2024 but came out end Feb/early March. This had a knock-on effect delaying the TP SIG highlight report from our Dec meeting as the bloodlines article is included in our report. The 151 edition contained the EBSL article written by KM and PV but unfortunately, the TP SIG logo was not added onto the article as requested. Members extended praise for the article which they felt was very informative.    The next article for edition 152 has already submitted by CD, regarding the Scottish Transfusion Dashboard. This Bloodlines issue was due in March but will probably be delayed to May or possibly June. KM has reminded the comms team to include the BBTS TP Group logo with all articles submitted via our SIG.  For edition 153, WM was looking to submit an article regarding transfusion transformation. It was agreed not to do cybersecurity as that topic will already be covered at the BBTS conference.  KM and PV are aiming to find a topic of interest from the regional speaker nominations for edition 154. If an applicant is unsuccessful in gaining a speaker slot, they could be invited to write an article instead. The TP Award Winner will also be invited to write an article.  Please bring to the group any suggestions of topics that would like to see explored.  SB suggested ‘risks associated with EPR’, perhaps a collaboration with a different region. Recent example: two different hospitals – two Trusts merged but maintained their own systems, now the same ‘Trust’ has two different EPR, issues with integration with LIMS - Blood Tracking. AB mentioned that there is a National Shared Care Working Group, with representation at the NTPN. They have done some national surveys and may be a useful resource.  KM informed there is a newly formed Working Group, led by Rachel Moss and James Davies regarding electronic system requirements and integration: LIMS, electronic blood tracking and EPR. The group are looking to develop some basic essential and desirable requirements and several of our SIG members are on the group.  Another topic previously mentioned and of shared interest was ‘Sample Validity’. It was agreed that it would be good to see differences in sample acceptance criteria and why they exist.   * Website update [BBTS | Transfusion Practitioners |](https://www.bbts.org.uk/whatwedo/sigs/tp/)   PV displayed the latest updates on the BBTS TP website.  The map was updated as Michaela Rackley and Joanne Bark have left the group. ER is the only rep within the East of England region so it was suggested she may like to consider recruiting another volunteer/candidate – with preference to a BBTS member as per the updated Terms of Reference.  The latest two highlight reports are now included on the site as agreed last meeting. In addition, the nomination forms for the TP award and conference speaker slots have also been added.   * BBTS TP forum [British Blood Transfusion Society - Please Login](https://forum.bbts.org.uk/tp/)   The forum has been tidied up. All previous posts were removed and a new ‘General Queries’ section has been created. It is hoped this will allow more visibility of individual posts and make comments easier to follow. All agreed the site now appears much easier to navigate.  PV advised that if anyone is struggling to get access to the forum, email him separately to investigate and hopefully fix.  KM asked if it is possible to make polls or surveys within a post, or if it is just limited to conversations. PV suggested that it would be possible even if not hosted on the forum itself, links can be added to MS Forms or similar platform. KM commented that the SIG could utilise this ongoing as required.  All members were requested to promote and use the forum as much possible and post any queries there wherever possible alongside usual channels within individual regions. **ACTION: ALL** | | |
|  | **BBTS TP Symposium** [BBTS | BBTS Conference |](https://www.bbts.org.uk/bbts2025/)   * BBTS Programme 2025 - Harrogate 13-16th October   KM requested all to promote the conference as widely as possible. TP representation is relatively low and it would be great to increase our numbers. There are loads of sessions directly relevant to the TP role. Poster abstracts should be encouraged and funding is available via RTCs and other sources. Look on the conference pages of the BBTS website for further details. **ACTION: ALL**  Programme planning is ongoing, and some sessions have been moved around to accommodate speakers and avoid clashes with similar topics. As the TP group is now an official ‘SIG’ (Special Interest Group), all SIGs tend to be grouped together during the first day. The latest plan is to host the TP SIG session on Tuesday 14th morning.  There will also be an official BBTS 5k run, which is expected to be well attended. KM is already practicing her excuses!   * Transfusion Practitioner Award   This new award (certificate from BBTS office) will be launched during the TP session this year to showcase the outstanding work of those in TP roles (or equivalent). We have received two nominations so far, please keep advertising and encouraging nominations to be made (they must be a BBTS member). Forms are available on the website. **ACTION: ALL**   * TP Speaker opportunities   KM reminded all that the TP speaker nomination forms are available on the website and encouraged nominations from each and every region. Last year there was feedback that the TP session was too England heavy so we are aiming to have at least one non-England slot this year. Topics suitable for presentation would be anything of interest to TPS including audits, regional projects, a clinical case, etc. **ACTION: ALL**  RO reported that TP meetings within her region were not very successful, due to limited engagement. At the last one they asked to get abstracts to the SHOT conference, but none were submitted.  DM commented that she hadn’t been promoting this opportunity very widely within Northern Ireland so will send another email.  CD will share again within Scotland.  JG will feedback to their TP meeting in Wales too.  PV informed there were still three weeks to the deadline, which wouldn’t be extended any further.  KM highlighted that it would be a really good opportunity for newly developed TPs to present. It’s usually a small audience of 20-30 and everyone is really welcoming, friendly and encouraging.   * Mollison Award   A nomination for Anne Davidson will be carried forward from last year. **ACTION: KM** | | |
|  | **TP Role Development**   * National TP framework update   SL gave a quick update: there are virtual engagement sessions that you can register for, the current aim is to pull together other frameworks to see how they have been developed, and use the best parts to develop the TP framework. The online tool for posting information and comments is called Padlet, link previously shared.  Currently there are around 102 TPs registered for the engagement sessions, a plea was made to encourage more to attend. **ACTION: ALL**     * BBTS Specialist (CTP)   No update as DG was not present. | | |
|  | **National Updates**   * England (AB)   IBI updates: NHS England has set up subgroups to review all the transfusion-related recommendations and potential funding requirements. There is a TP representative in each subgroup. Recommendations/actions will potentially be staggered over a significant amount of years with the goal of achieving them all.  NICE Quality Insight Tool: positive feedback regarding the real time comparison, as opposed to traditional NCA audit programme where the results appear a year later in the best of circumstances.  Transfusion Research Network: This is part of the Transfusion 2024 workstream with the purpose to increase research and transformation in both laboratories and clinical areas.  MHRA: now have representation on the NTPN. They are reviewing some of the IBI recommendations regarding yellow card reporting. There are hosting roadshows/workshops in collaboration with SHOT. CQC will start to cover some elements of transfusion and are working with MHRA to align their views and define their criteria. It should not generate any more work for the TPs.   * Northern Ireland (FW)   There are only three Trusts left to join the electronic system (EPIC). There is work ongoing with integration and registering for the QS138. There is also a current regional audit on platelets and their wastage.  From the education perspective, some work has been done regarding transfusion documentation and their new EPR (EPIC). People tend to forget the basics, for example to check the ID bands even if you’re scanning them, too focused on the screens.  They are aiming to move away from face-to-face competency assessments, looking at simulation packages, but not VR.  PV suggested that would be a fantastic topic to bring to a BBTS conference in the future.     * Scotland (CD)   IBI is also a hot topic, there is a Scottish steering group (fact finding to share with the government).  Other projects: remote task force, emergency blood in remote locations and some changes to the existent Transfusion Dashboards.   * Wales (JG)   Also working with the IBI recommendations, especially digitalisation and education, nursing and midwifery training, staffing levels and contingency planning.  National transfusion audit, there is a national request form currently being reviewed.  Digital maternity roll-out.  Preoperative anaemia: working on a dashboard. | | |
|  | **Any other Business**   * Amber Alert for Blood Stocks in England:   Not discussed, will be carried over to the next meeting. Amber Alert still in place. No NHSBT representation at the meeting.   * Human factors – template for investigations:   KM asked if anyone has a Human Factors template, as she is developing a local template adapted from the SEIPS model to fit with SHOT requirements.  SL and others use the SHOT template. ER and RO have a homemade WBIT human factors template. All agreed that the templates would be useful.  Suggested the TP forum as the media to share any templates and post general queries or AoB that may come up. | | |
|  | **Dates of next meetings**   * Wednesday 11th June 2025 (invite to follow) * Tuesday 16th Sept 2025 | | |
| **Actions** *- Blue shade = action completed in this meeting* | | **By** | **Added** |
| To prepare the new December Highlight report, distribute it and upload it to the BBTS website. | | KM/PV | 17/12/2024 |
| To update the BBTS TP Forum for ease of navigation. Creating one category for TPs to post their questions. | | PV | 17/12/2024 |
| To draft and distribute nomination forms for the TP award and for speakers at the TP SIG session during 2025 conference. | | KM/PV | 17/12/2024 |
| To post an update on the BBTS CTP course onto the TP forum. | | DG | 17/12/2024 |
| To find out and feed back to the group when the BBTS Specialist CTP course is launched | | DG | 17/12/2024 |
| Promote and use the TP forum to post any queries there alongside usual channels within individual regions | | All | 11/03/25 |
| Promote the BBTS conference as widely as possible. Poster abstracts should be encouraged, and funding is available via RTCs and other sources | | All | 11/03/25 |
| Advertise and encourage nominations to be made for the TP SIG award. Forms are available on the website | | All | 11/03/25 |
| Each TP SIG member encouraged to submit a speaker nomination for their region | | All | 11/03/25 |
| KM to resubmit the Mollison Award nomination from last year | | KM | 11/03/25 |
| A plea was made to encourage more TPs from England to book onto the national TP framework update workshops. | | All | 11/03/25 |