Briefing paper for Open Referral UK steering group meeting 4

Purpose

For the final meeting of the 2024/25 Open Referral UK (ORUK) steering group, this document summarises the progress of the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) project and the group's work to date.

We are seeking feedback on the work so far, member involvement, and commitments for the year ahead. We would also like to review the group's membership.

Progress to date

The MHCLG project to increase the adoption of Open Referral UK has:
1. Established and managed the steering group, holding quarterly meetings
2. Delivered a communications campaign, including events such as *What is ORUK?*, *Meet early adopters of ORUK* and a developer-focused session
3. Developed a new ORUK API validator and dashboards for validated feeds, which will feature on a redesigned website launching in March 2025
4. Updated the benefits calculator and introduced a mechanism for monitoring adoption
5. Reviewed and presented options for an incentives scheme
6. Assessed options for the future management of ORUK beyond April 2025
7. Created adoption support and guidance for councils, including an executive summary, business case template, project initiation document (PID) template, and technical overview, to be launched in March 2025
8. Published a briefing on taxonomy requirements and related cross-government work

Steering group activity

The steering group has received presentations on the adoption of ORUK beyond local government, including:

- Department for Education Family Hubs
- Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board

Members have also had opportunities to provide feedback on the project's progress and future proposals.

Call for group member feedback

We would now like to review the impact of the steering group and explore ways to improve its effectiveness. Members are invited to provide feedback at the meeting on 3 March 2025, including:

- General reflections on the work so far
- How efforts to increase ORUK adoption could be managed in the coming years
- Their current assessment of ORUK's relevance to their department or sector
- Actions they plan to take in the coming months to evaluate ORUK's relevance and follow up where appropriate, and how MHCLG can support this
- Whether the group's membership should be revised, and if so, how