

Table S1 Topic guide used for semi-structured interviews

PARTICIPANT & EAG	<p>Your position now & then</p> <p>How did you get involved</p> <p>Who decided EAGs & why?</p> <p>What led up to EAGs? Why now?</p> <p>Why diabetes?</p> <p>What were there particular challenges in diabetes care at the time?</p>
MEMEBERSHIP	<p>Other members selected</p> <p>Remit for group</p> <p>Your role within group (did it change)</p> <p>Your objectives/priorities</p> <p>Your expectations for the group</p>
DEVELOPING POLICY	<p>Objectives from the outset...</p> <p>How were priorities identified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - who brought them to table <p>What issues were to the forefront, most occupied with?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How recommendations developed
ALTERNATIVES	<p>Alternative solutions discussed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sharing ideas <p>How were alternatives evaluated</p> <p>Why disregard them</p> <p>Topics of confusion or disagreement</p> <p>How were differences of opinion handled? (consensus)</p> <p>Was there bargaining involved? In what way...</p>
CONTENT + EVIDENCE	<p>Existing/ available evidence</p> <p>Efforts to produce/gather evidence</p> <p>Types of evidence drawn on: expertise, international, research</p> <p>How did presentations inform report? Was information used?</p>
SUB-GROUP	<p>Why that subgroup/topic</p> <p>(Integrated care, how was that model developed?)</p> <p>Bringing ideas to the larger group for discussion/agreement?</p>
FINALISING REPORT	<p>Any crisis points in the process?</p> <p>How did the approval process work with the HSE?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Timeline, stakeholders, decisions, progress, outcomes
RELATIONSHIPS	<p>Group dynamic- influence, leadership, partnership, networks</p> <p>Resistance, enabling factors</p> <p>People resisting/enabling</p> <p>Other Barriers & Facilitators</p>

CONTEXT

Key milestones/crises in diabetes
Previous efforts – was this process different,
advantages/disadvantages of this attempt
Influence of other policies, changes in HSE...
Financial implications/ Economic situation
Current resources: staff, skills, organization.
Media Role? Role of advocacy groups?

IMPLEMENTATION

What was the expectation once recommendations were agreed?
Reaction of diabetes community: widely accepted?
Critical factors for implementation

Should the content differ?
What could have been done differently
Balance of goals & priorities
Use of EAGs for policy making
