

# NHS Python Community Board

20th May 2021 | [Meeting Summary](#)

---

## Board Members

### Attendees

Alex Cheung - NHSE/I (**Chair**)  
Sophie Williams, PhD - Barts Health NHS Trust  
Dr Mark A. Bailey - Gloucestershire Royal Hospital  
Haris Shuaib MPhys MSc MIPEM MFCI - Guy's & St. Thomas NHS Foundation Trust  
Juan Adriano - Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust  
Craig R. Shenton, PhD - NHSX  
Mary Amanuel - NHSX  
Jonathan Pearson, PhD - NHSX

### Apologies

John O'Connell - NHS South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit  
Arouba Zubair - NHSX

## Agenda Items

1.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>
	The Chair welcomed attendees to the board and attendees introduced themselves.
2	<b>Purpose of NHS Python Community Board</b>
	<p>There was an open discussion on the aims and purposes of the board. The key themes were around whether the board would be a board of governance or a working group; technical advisory group or an advocacy group, if the structure would be informal or formal; and how we will work together to other communities of practice, to achieve our aims.</p> <p>It was agreed that the board would be semi-formal and would meet monthly.</p>
3.	<b>Survey Results Summary</b>
	<p>The survey results from the first Community Survey were presented.</p> <p><b>Key findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Analysts, data or clinical scientists and clinicians were the most popular professions (in that order).</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A majority of community members come from regional or local organisations (trusts), however the most common host organisations were NHS England/ Improvement and NHSX.</li> <li>• The biggest concern raised in feedback was around the difficulty of installing python in NHS laptops, particularly at the trust level and how NHS.pycom will share best practice examples.</li> </ul> <p>Regarding IT, it is understood that the NHS Python Community cannot take responsibility for changing Trust IT systems to allow python installation as contracts are decided by individual Trusts themselves.</p> <p>It was discussed that community members could use Jupyter Notebooks as an alternative, and that members might be able to install Anaconda (python distribution) without admin rights subject to internal IT procedures.</p>
4.	<b>Communication channels</b>
	<p>In terms of communication channels, Slack was mentioned as an appropriate communication tool to build up the community.</p> <p>The NHS Python Community cannot be expected to have 24 hours support via slack but overall, it is very useful for members to share code, ideas and challenges. Slack can also be used to share stories; members can share how they have overcome certain IT hurdles.</p> <p>We agreed a newsletter would be a good way to keep members updated on progress, events, and the latest opportunities.</p>
5.	<b>Questions/AOB</b>
	<p>The board closed with the following ideas that are still in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal of the python community</li> <li>• Role of the board</li> <li>• Slack as our preferred communications channel</li> </ul> <p><b>Next board meeting date:</b> 21st June 2021</p>

## Error Correction

### 21st June 2021:

The Summary Results section has been corrected to reflect that community members could use Jupyter Notebooks as an alternative and might be able to install Anaconda but this is not guaranteed.