

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE ACADEMY ON 09.12.08

No Health Without Mental Health

A one-day summit would be held on 2 February 2009 to discuss the preliminary findings of the 'No Health without Mental Health' review and how to take them forward on an intercollegiate basis. This event would also celebrate the launch of the new Psychiatric Liaison Accreditation Network (PLAN).

Academy members were asked to send feedback on the report direct to Professor Bhugra by the end of the second week in January 2009.

The Cardiff Consensus Statement

It was agreed that the Chairman and Professor Douglas would respond both verbally and in writing to the 4 CMOs.

Modernising Medical Careers

Members congratulated Dr Hamilton on her appointment as Director of Medical Education at the Department of Health. It was noted that Dr Hamilton would co-chair the Programme Board with Professor Haslam when she had taken up post.

Professor Haslam reported that approximately 120 Foundation training posts would be removed from the 2009 recruitment round. This was because of a surplus of places in 2007 and 2008. Discussions with NHS Employers had indicated that they were not aware of the difficulties that were being experienced in obtaining locums.

The Academy welcomed the letter that the Chairman had sent to the Secretary of State for Health expressing serious concerns about the impact of the introduction of the 48 hour working week in 2009. It appeared that the DH was now aware of the problems that might arise, particularly in certain specialties e.g. Paediatrics and Child Health, and was willing to consider possible solutions.

Professor Douglas requested, and received, the Academy's backing for a pilot of a generic ranking test and core/specialty focused judgement tests for selection into core training. Specific discussions would be held with the RCS England about this proposal.

Representation on the Programme Board

It was agreed that as MEE was not yet in place, Academy representation on the Programme Board would not be reviewed until February 2009. It was noted that the Academy representatives on the Programme Board were there to represent a group of specialties.

Revalidation

It was reported that the Chairman of the GMC's UK Revalidation Programme Board would be Sir Michael Pitt.

GMC Standards Framework

Members received the GMC Standards Framework. Dr Hulf reported that the first meeting of the group who would be editing the standards had taken place on 8 December 2008. The standards would be published in the same format for all of the specialties with a generic introduction.

Modelling Revalidation the view from the Colleges and Faculties

Dr Hulf reported that a hybrid model had been developed which was represented in diagram format.

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Additional funding 2009-10

Members discussed the draft business case for additional funding requested from the Academy by the Department of Health.

Assessment of Technical Skills

Members received a presentation from Professor Hanna on this project which had been commissioned from Imperial College by the Academy and funded by the GMC. The first stage of this project had been a systematic literature review to identify what evidence was available regarding the validity of assessment of technical skills at consultant level. The review had concluded that clinical validation of assessment tools for technical skills at consultant level was missing as was evidence that the use of simulators to assess technical skills was an accurate predictor of clinical performance. It was agreed that this was useful information which the Chairman would pass on to the DH.

Service Accreditation

The Chairman reported that a meeting on service accreditation had taken place between representatives from the Academy, Cynthia Bower from the CQC and Professor Sir Bruce Keogh on 10 November. A further meeting would be taking place between the Academy and the CQC on 18 December. It had been agreed that Professor Peter Furness would lead on this piece of work for the Academy.

Finance and Resources Committee

The preparation of the accounts for the year ending 30 September 2008 was now complete. There had been some queries which had now been resolved to the satisfaction of the accountants. The committee had discussed accommodation options for the Academy. The committee had also considered a policy for charging overhead costs. Further details would be brought back to the next meeting.

Bid to the DH for matched project funding

The Chairman indicated that the draft bid would be circulated to Presidents for comment prior to submission.

Medical Training Initiative and meeting with the DH Workforce Team on 11 December 2008

The Chairman indicated that a briefing paper on the MTI from Mr Matt Foster at the RCPL had been tabled. There were a number of issues still to be resolved. The Chairman would ask Mr Foster to ensure his colleagues in the other Colleges were kept up to date with developments.

Royal College representation on AACs

It was agreed that the concordat between the Academy and the Foundation Trust Network on Colleges' involvement in AACs should be redrafted.

Patient identification in training portfolios

Members suggested that this was an issue that could be raised by the Academy representative on the National Information Governance Board.

Consensus Statement on the Role of the Doctor

The statement was approved. Presidents agreed that the final version of the statement could be published on College/Faculty websites.

Consensus Statement with the ABPI/APG

The Chairman reported that this statement, which had been agreed at the Academy meeting on 15 September 2008, would be published in the Lancet in the New Year with the names of the Presidents in office on that date.

