

**ACADEMY MEETING - 25 JANUARY 2011**

**Summary of key issues**

**Government Health Policy and the NHS and Social Care Bill**

The Academy expressed serious concerns over various aspects of the NHS Bill published last week. In particular, members were concerned that the policy of “any willing provider” would fragment services and undermine continuity of care. It was considered essential that there are consistent standards required of all providers. The Academy will be producing a high-level briefing on the Bill.

It was also agreed that Colleges and Faculties would, as far as practicable, co-ordinate their activity in terms of lobbying and seeking amendments to the Bill. College and Faculty Parliamentary leads will be meeting to discuss how best to take forward the work.

**“Delivering the Healthcare Workforce”**

There was detailed discussion of the important Government consultation document *Delivering the Healthcare Workforce* which sets out proposals for workforce planning and the commissioning of education and training. The Academy welcomed the recognition in the paper of the need for a planned approach to workforce planning and education provision and the necessity of professional input. There were, however, concerns about how the system will work, the future of deanery functions and funding. The Academy will be producing a detailed response in consultation with members.

**Faculty of Medical Management and Leadership**

The Academy agreed a proposal to establish a Faculty of Medical Management and Leadership. The Faculty will be open to doctors at all stages of their careers with an interest in leadership and management. Proposals have been developed over the last few months by a Working Party of College and other representatives. A Founding Council will be established with representatives from all Colleges and Faculties and an Expert Advisory Panel with external representatives. A Founding Director is also being appointed to take forward the work to bring the Faculty into existence.

**Working Time Regulations**

The Academy noted that the EU has started a consultation on possible revisions to the Working Time Regulations. The Academy agreed that any review should concentrate on changes to the SiMap and Jaeger rulings concerning on-call and timing of rest periods.

**Hospital Episodes Statistics**

The Academy endorsed a report from the NHS Information Centre which proposes revision of the content and use of Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) data. The review recognises the need for engagement with clinicians and will work closely with Colleges. The Academy reiterated its long-term vision for patient focussed records adopted last year which calls for a fundamental change to the approach to patient records. However it was recognised that this proposed review was important work in the meantime.

**The case for Evidence Based Medicine**

The Academy agreed to work with the campaigning organisation *Sense about Science* on a joint project to explain evidence based medicine to the public and the importance of EBM to identify which treatments are effective and, equally, which are ineffective.

**GMC consultation on postgraduate exams**

The GMC is consulting again on proposals around national postgraduate exams specifically in relation to the currency, timing and number of attempts at examinations. The Academy has commented on all these issues and will therefore re-submit its original views and Colleges agreed to do likewise.

**Academy Patient Liaison Group**

The Academy agreed the work plan for the Patient Liaison Group for 2011. This involves raising the profile of the APLG, sharing information amongst College PLGs and running a seminar on patient experience in the summer.

**UK Donation Ethics Committee**

The Academy approved the first annual report of the UK Donation Ethics Committee which has been established under the auspices of the Academy. The Committee has had a successful first year culminating in the publication of a major consultation document in January on donation after circulatory death.

**Accommodation**

It was reported that the Academy has successfully moved in to its new premises in Dallington Street, London EC1. The premises will provide the Academy with its own meeting rooms for main Academy and committee meetings as well as good office accommodation.

January 2010