

ACADEMY MEETING – 28 MARCH 2011

Summary of key issues

Government Health Policy and the NHS and Social Care Bill

The Academy noted the progress of the Health Bill in parliament and the various comments made by the Government including now making reference to “*clinician* commissioning” and “any *qualified* provider”.

It was agreed that further Academy work should concentrate on the Lords stage of the Bill and for Colleges to all seek to support a small number of identified amendments. The Academy will produce a written brief for the Lords stage on the key amendments and issues and organise a meeting for interested Presidents with Peers.

“Developing the Healthcare Workforce”

The Academy response to the consultation document “*Developing the Healthcare Workforce*”, which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting, was agreed. The response is available on the Academy website at <http://www.aomrc.org.uk/component/content/article/38-general-news/220-developing-the-workforce-academy-response-to-the-consultation.html> .

Role of Colleges in Commissioning

With the Academy and Colleges having lobbied for wider clinician involvement in commissioning it was recognised that it was crucial for Colleges to engage with this agenda at all levels and be clear how they envisage that wider clinician based commissioning should work. It was agreed to establish a small Academy group to draft a paper setting out principles for clinician and College involvement in commissioning.

Clinical Excellence Awards

The Academy expressed extreme concern at the Department of Health proposal that College work should not be considered eligible for CEAs. The proposal entirely misunderstood the nature of College work and was invidious. It was noted that the Academy had made these points strongly at their oral evidence session with the Doctors’ and Dentists’ Review Body. The Chairman would also be raising the issue with the CMO when he met her in early April.

Standards for the design of hospital in-patient prescription charts

Last year, at the request of Sir Bruce Keogh, the Academy set up a working group to draw up common standards for the design of hospital drug charts. The report of the working group was received and endorsed and the Academy thanked the group and its chairman, Professor Stephen Jackson, for all their work. The report will now be submitted to Sir Bruce Keogh but the Academy also reaffirmed its commitment to the introduction of a single electronic drug chart across the UK in the long term.

Changes to Immigration rules – Medical Training Initiative

The Academy noted that potential changes in rules for Tier 5 visa arrangements which could reduce the permitted length of stay of overseas doctors on the Medical Training Initiative from 24 to 12 months would make the scheme inoperable. It was agreed to welcome and endorse the briefing on the issue produced by the RCP(L) and for the Academy to provide key messages for responses to the consultation in May and to co-ordinate College responses.

Guiding Principles for Pharmaceutical Physicians

The Academy noted the guidance produced by the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine and urged all Colleges and Faculties to examine their own procedures to incorporate the principles of the document as appropriate.

Academy Quality Improvement Leads Committee

The Academy noted that at the last meeting of the Quality Improvement Leads Committee Sir Bruce Keogh had asked Colleges and Faculties to contribute to shaping the list of priorities for NICE clinical standards. Members have been asked to send their responses to the Academy for compilation for DH.

Sedation

It was agreed to ask the Royal College of Anaesthetists to lead a project on behalf of the Academy to revise its guidance on sedation involving other members as necessary.

MEE and Medical Programme Board

It was noted that the Academy is now involved in Shape of Training Group and agreed that it was vital that this work is taken forward in an inclusive four country fashion.

Inter-Collegiate Improving Working Lives Group

The Academy agreed that the current Inter-Collegiate Improving Working Lives Group should come under the auspices of the Academy and be renamed the Academy Career Support and Development Committee.

Revalidation

An up-date on developments was noted and it was agreed to endorse the principle that revalidation outcomes as well as processes had to be quality assured and that Colleges should be involved.

Academy Governance

The Academy noted that its new governance arrangements would come into effect on 1st April. The newly appointed Board of Trustees would take responsibility for all formal governance arrangements. College and Faculty presidents will no longer be Academy Trustees but all will be the nominated representative of their organisation on the Academy Council which will have responsibility for all healthcare and NHS policy matters.

Professor David Coggon, President of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine

The Academy thanked Professor Coggon, who was retiring as President of the FOM for all his work for the Academy and wished him well for the future.