

**ACADEMY COUNCIL MEETING – 25 JULY 2011**

**Summary of key issues**

**Welcome**

The Academy welcomed the following members, who had taken up office as Presidents of their respective organisations: Professor Sue Bailey, President Royal College of Psychiatrists; Professor Harminder Dua, President Royal College of Ophthalmologists ; Dr Kathy Harley, Dean Faculty of Dental Surgery and Professor Norman Williams, President Royal College of Surgeons England.

Peter Nightingale was congratulated on his election as vice-chairman of the Academy and becoming the Academy Education Lead.

**NHS Bill**

The Academy recognised that the work of the NHS Future Forum and the Government response had resulted in improvements to the Bill in a number of areas. However, there still remained areas of concern.

It was agreed that there was a need to seek further amendments or assurances in certain areas. The areas on which to focus should be:

- Competition
- Potential increased bureaucracy and structures
- Regulation and appointment of public health professionals
- Time off for College and wider work for the NHS.

The Academy agreed that it will use part of its policy away-day in September to determine the approach to key issues and any possible amendments.

**Clinical Commissioning**

The Council noted that the Department of Health wished to take forward the Future Forum recommendation for College engagement with the National Commissioning Board. In addition details of Academy, RCGP and Health Foundation summit on Clinical Commissioning summit to be held on 6 October were noted.

**Education and Training**

It was agreed that as education and training is not part of the Bill these issues will be mainly pursued through departmental rather than parliamentary channels. It was reported that discussions on developing education and training proposals were continuing with DH especially in relation to the placing of deaneries

**EC Consultation on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications**

The Council considered the above EC consultation. There were concerns over a number of the proposals. The Academy will be producing a response which will concentrate on duration of undergraduate training, language testing, challenging the divide between doctors with and without patient contact and ensuring general practice treated as a specialty alongside others.

### **Training for AAC members**

The Council considered a paper on training for College AAC members and fully supported the principle that they should be trained. It was felt that face to face training is desirable but the Scottish e-learning model had proved successful and should be used if face to face training not available. The RCPCH kindly offered to make its training available to other Colleges.

### **GMC Child Protection Guidance**

The Council agreed to produce an Academy response to the GMC consultation noting that the guidance is meant for all doctors not just paediatricians and GPs. All colleges and faculties were encouraged to respond.

### **E-Prescribing/In-patient prescription charts**

The Council agreed to progress dissemination, in conjunction with DH, of the recent Academy guidelines on prescription charts. The Academy was clear, however, that the long-term aim of a single e-prescribing chart must continue to be emphasised.

### **“Better health better lives: children and young people with intellectual disabilities and their families.”**

The Academy endorsed the new European statement which arose from a World Health Organisation initiative in partnership with UNICEF.

### **Medical Training Initiative**

The Academy noted that Home Office consultation on Tier 5 immigration rules was now open and urged all members to respond stating that the period for MTI trainees should not be reduced from 24 to 12 months.

### **Clinical vision on the long term future of the NHS**

The Academy agreed to scope out a proposal to undertake a project to develop a clinical vision for the future of the NHS over the next decades. If progressed, this would only be undertaken after the current Health Bill had finished.

### **Clinical Excellence Awards**

It was reported that Ministers were expected to announce the Government response to DDRB review of Clinical Excellence Awards in September.

### **Meetings with Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer (England) and Dr Pat Hamilton, DH Director of Medical Education**

At the close of the Council there were productive meetings with Dame Sally Davies and Dr Pat Hamilton. The Academy welcomed the opportunity for regular meetings with the CMO who expressed her wish for a constructive relationship with Colleges. Issues raised with the CMO included release for College and other work for the wider NHS, easing research bureaucracy, regulation of remote care/tele-medicine and the future of NPSA functions.

With Dr Hamilton the Academy discussed current education and training developments including the establishment of HEE.