

ACADEMY COUNCIL MEETING – 29 NOVEMBER 2011

Summary of key issues

Welcome

The Academy welcomed the following members who had taken up office as Presidents of their respective organisations: - Dr Mike Clancy (College of Emergency Medicine), Dr Archie Prentice (Royal College of Pathologists) and Professor John Crow (Royal College of Physicians of Ireland)

NHS Bill

The Academy noted that there had been a useful meeting with Peers on 17 October involving a number of Presidents where the key College concerns as set out in the joint Academy briefing were discussed.

Clinical commissioning

The summary document from the successful Academy conference in October was received. Discussions were being arranged with the Department of Health in England to discuss College and professional input to the NHS National Commissioning Board. The Council also agreed that clinical commissioning should be a standing item on its agenda for the foreseeable future.

Education and training

The Council endorsed a letter from the Chairman, Sir Neil Douglas, to the Secretary of State stressing yet again the vital importance of post-graduate medical deans being independent of direct managerial control by Local Education and Training Boards (LETBs).

The Academy will be submitting written evidence to the House of Commons Health Committee Inquiry on Education and Training. The Council agreed a vision and statement of principles for post-graduate medical education that will underpin the submission.

Benefits of consultant-delivered care

The Council approved a report from an Academy Working Group led by Academy Vice-Chairman Professor Terence Stephenson on the benefits of consultant-delivered care. The Council felt that the report, which is due to be published in January, will make an important contribution to the debate on the shape of the future medical workforce.

Consultant presence in acute and emergency general services

The Council noted recent reports from NHS London and Dr Foster of evidence of significantly higher mortality at weekends and evenings with lower consultant presence. Following on from the recommendation in the *Benefits of Consultant-delivered Care* report which said that the benefits should be available to all patients, the Council agreed to set up a working group to scope what staffing would be

required in hospitals to have effective consultant care throughout the week. Such changes would have significant implications both for consultant working patterns and for the configuration of services. It is hoped to carry out this work in conjunction with employers.

Obesity

The Council recognised that obesity is one of the major public health concerns in the UK today and felt that current Government policy was ineffectual in tackling the issue. The Academy therefore agreed to establish a Working Group to draw up a report and action plan based on evidence of the effectiveness of measures around exercise, diet, advertising, sponsorship and fiscal initiatives.

Induced abortion and mental health

The Council received and endorsed a major research report carried out by the National Commissioning Centre for Mental Health on behalf of the Academy on the impact of induced abortion on mental health. The report will be published on 8 December.

Child sexual exploitation

Arising out of a meeting at the Department of Health, the Council agreed to pull together representatives from the relevant Colleges to consider the important role that health care professionals have in supporting children and young people who have been sexually exploited, and what more can be done in this area.

Clinical Excellence Awards

The Council noted with frustration that no response had been received to its letter to the Health Minister asking for clarification on the position regarding clinical excellence awards. An announcement was, however, expected shortly.

Revised Foundation Curriculum

The Academy noted with pleasure that the GMC had approved the new Foundation curriculum produced by the Academy. It was recognised that the new Supervised Learning Events (SLEs) process has major implications for assessment throughout training and Colleges and Faculties were urged to adopt them throughout their curricula. Those involved were thanked for the excellent work on the project.

Medical Education England and Medical Programme Board

Peter Nightingale, the Academy Vice-Chairman and Education Lead reported back on the recent MEE and Medical Programme Board meetings

Staff and Associate Specialists Committee

The Council noted that the first meeting of what was the Inter-Collegiate SAS Committee but is now under the auspices of the Academy had taken place.

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. Issues covered included post-graduate medical training, the development of HEE, time-off for work for the wider NHS and regulation of tele-medicine.