

ACADEMY COUNCIL MEETING – 24 JULY 2018

Summary of key issues

Welcome and Introductions

The Council congratulated Kenneth Mealy on his appointment as new RCS Ireland President.

Academy Vice-Chair elections

The Council congratulated Derek Alderson and Lesley Regan on their election as Academy Council Vice-Chairs.

Letters to Patients

With some minor amendments the Council endorsed guidance prepared by a Working Group led by Nigel Mathers from the RCGP and Hugh Rayner from RCPL for clinicians in secondary care on writing letters direct to patients with GPs copied in rather than vice-versa. The guidance will be published at the end of the month.

NHS 10 Year Plan

The Council considered how it should respond to NHS England's proposed "10 Year Plan" following the Government's announcement on increased NHS funding. The Council agreed to produce a high-level response identifying cross-specialty issues which will improve equality of access to health and care services across the population and health spectrum with reduction in variation in processes and outcomes.

In addition, Colleges agreed to provide examples for the Academy to collate of

- Clinically robust targets – possibly based around sets of minimum acceptable standards
- Ways of providing care differently and more effectively

Colleges will also consider opportunities in forthcoming meetings for NHS England to hear ideas and thinking of College members directly.

Genomics

Council received a report of the recent Academy seminar for College Genomics Champions. Council confirmed its support for the aims of the genomics programme but repeated concerns that implementation is carried out effectively with sufficient resources and training for staff.

Health and Work Consensus Statement

It was agreed to endorse a statement on health and work for health professionals produced by DHSC, DWP and PHE and support the spread of good practice.

Flu Vaccinations

The Council considered a letter from NHS England seeking support from professional bodies for encouraging staff take-up of flu vaccinations. It was agreed to reiterate support for staff flu vaccination in line with Good Medical Practice and also to urge employers to make the process as simple as possible.

AoMRC/PRSB project on doctors' perceptions of the digital agenda in healthcare

It was agreed to support a joint project with the Professional Records Standards Board for a survey of doctors, supported by the National Information Board, on digital problems and good practice.

Gross Negligence Manslaughter/Culpable Homicide

The Council considered the recommendations from Sir Norman Williams' recent review of GNM. The Council endorsed the Review's request for the Academy and Colleges to identify standards and training for expert witnesses. A short life group will be set up to draw up principles and determine how to commission training.

Population health – A framework for provider action

The Council endorsed a framework for action that can be taken by provider organisations to address population health issues which had been proposed by the Faculty of Public Health.

Wales Academy

Following a consultation, members in Wales had indicated that they saw the Wales Academy operating as a sub-committee of the Academy rather than a separate organisation. The details of how this would operate in practice are now being considered.

Brexit

The Council noted an update on medicines regulation, EMA and the recent Commons amendment on alignment with the EMA.

In terms of a future position on Brexit it was felt that

- The guiding principle had to be the implications for healthcare not any wider political implications
- That the Academy and Colleges should seek to avoid any perception of taking a perceived party-political stance
- It is important to maintain a position of influence
- However, the Academy should speak out clearly on threats to healthcare
- To keep the position under review

Healthcare Safety Investigations Branch (HSIB)

The Council had a presentation from Dr Nick Toff on the work of the newly formed Healthcare Safety Investigations Branch.