

Summary of key issues

Welcome and thanks

The Council welcomed Professor Derek Bell, President-elect of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh to the Council and expressed its sincere thanks to Dr Neil Dewhurst, demitting President of the RCP Edinburgh for his work as Education Lead and Council member for the Academy.

The Council congratulated Sue Bailey, President RC Psychiatrists, and Jane Barrett ex-President RC Radiologists on their recognition in the New Year Honours list.

SPAs

The Council has been concerned about the growth of contracts for new consultants allowing only one SPA. This has been especially prevalent in Scotland. The Council was clear that it was approaching this in relation to maintaining quality and safety rather than as a terms and conditions issue.

The Council recognised that determining the “right” level of SPA time depends on robust and effective job planning to identify the best use of consultant time for patient care, quality and safety. Evidence rather than assertion will be required to progress the issue successfully and it was agreed to seek to identify the time requirements of consultants through some diary exercises and other research.

Shape of Training

The Council made clear it did not want to see any loss of momentum in taking forward work on the *Shape of Training* report proposals. It is recognised that the detail is still to be determined and that some of the issues will be contentious. It is, however, essential that Colleges are driving the debate on these topics. It was therefore agreed that the Academy should set up a specific group to take forward initial discussion and debate on *Shape* with input from all Colleges and Faculties.

Waste

The Council endorsed a proposal for an Academy project identifying waste in the NHS. With resources so stretched there can be no justification for waste in the NHS in clinical practice or any other areas. The project will concentrate on waste from a clinical perspective whether in terms of unnecessary interventions or prescribing or inefficient procedures and processes. It is hoped to publish the report in the summer.

Women in Medicine

In response to an article in the Daily Mail last month on women in medicine, the Council placed on record that it refuted the view that “gender imbalance is already having a negative effect on the NHS”. The Council was clear that the changing nature of the medical workforce should be seen as an opportunity rather than a threat and opportunities for flexible working are increasingly sought by and benefit both male and female doctors. The Academy statement is on our website

Patient Safety Concordat

The Council endorsed the Patient Safety Concordat produced by the National Quality Board. It recognised that findings applied in primary as much secondary care. The Academy will discuss how to take forward involvement with NHS England.

Responsible Clinician/"Name over the Bed"

The Council noted the progress on the work commissioned by the Secretary of State on having an identified clinician responsible for the whole of a patients' hospital stay. It was hoped to produce agreed guidance on the issue in March

Care Bill – Clause 118 Powers of Trust Special Administrators (TSAs)

The Council noted that the Government had agreed amendments following Academy and College lobbying which ensured that any staff and organisations affected by a recommendation from a TSA have to be consulted about proposals.

Child Protection

The Council welcomed an offer from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health to support Colleges in developing child protection guidance and training

College Sustainability Audit and report

The Council endorsed a project to audit current activity being undertaken by Colleges in relation to Sustainability. The report will feature current initiatives and examples of good practice on sustainability.

UK Morale in Medicine Study

The Council agreed to support independent academic research to examine comparative burnout rates and associated factors amongst different grades of doctors across the full range of medical specialties. The Council did, however, stress that it felt that surveys of morale on their own added little value without seeking to provide innovative solutions to concerns

Revalidation

The Council noted a report on the overall progress on revalidation, the Academy's work on remediation and on the various evaluations of revalidation underway.

Trainee Doctors Group

The Council noted the work being undertaken by the Trainee Doctors Group on taking forward the Trainees Charter produced by the Academy Trainees Group and adopted by *Shape of Training* report, seven day services, undermining and ensuring trainee input to LETBs

July Council Meeting

Recognising its four nation role, the Council agreed to meet in Scotland in July.

Sick Doctors

Following the Council meeting members had an interesting presentation from Dr Clare Gerada, ex-Chair of the RCGP, on her work on the sick doctors and health practitioners' programme. The Council expressed support for the spread of such services across the country.