

**Summary of key issues**

**Thanks and welcomes**

With a number changes in College Presidencies the Council noted:-

- Ian Ritchie (RCS Edinburgh) had demitted office and Mike Lavelle-Jones is now President
- JP Van Besouw (RcoA) had demitted office and Liam Brennan is now President
- Keith Bragman (FPM) demits office on 19 November when Alan Boyd becomes President
- Frank Dunn (RCPSG) demits office on 4 December when David Galloway becomes President
- Mike Pringle (RCGP) demits office on 20 November. Nigel Mathers (RCGP Hon Sec) will take his place as a Council member
- Gethin Pugh (ATDG) demitted office as chair of the Academy Trainee Doctor Group and Jon Bailey is now chair.

The Council sincerely thanked all the outgoing members for their various contributions to the Academy and wished them well. The new members were congratulated on their election and welcomed to the Academy.

**Valuing Junior Doctors**

In the context of the current junior doctors' dispute the Council considered a range of issues around how junior doctors' contribution can be better valued.

Jude Harrison (Vice Chair of the Academy Junior Doctor Group) reported on work undertaken by the ATDG on their "*Building Supportive Environments*" project which was discussed in detail at their recent seminar. This was looking at a range of ways that junior doctors can be supported. The Council endorsed the work and agreed to establish a working group to take forward and oversee the project.

The Council also noted a report on a recent meeting between the Academy, HEE, NHS Employers and the BMA to look at improving training environments building on the work in the Academy Trainee Charter and the Council supported on going work.

The Council then had a detailed discussion about the current dispute. Whilst the Council was clear that terms and conditions of employment are not within the remit of Colleges, real concern was expressed about the current position and the potential for short and long term damage to the NHS and patient care from the dispute.

The Council agreed a statement urging both sides in the current dispute to step back from the brink and re-enter negotiations in good faith so that an agreement can be reached. If necessary this should be through third party conciliation and arbitration.

The Council also consider what practical advice might be issued by Colleges to their members in the event of industrial action recognising the different context between specialties.

**Operating Principles for External Reviews of NHS organisations**

The Council endorsed a paper setting out a framework of operating principles for external reviews of NHS organisations produced in response to a recommendation from the Kirkup review.

### **Academy of Medical Royal Colleges in Wales**

The Council agreed to support a proposal from the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges in Wales to work more closely with the UK Academy and operate under the aegis of the AoMRC. Details of the required governance will now be worked out.

### **Transforming Care for People with Learning Disabilities**

Jane Cummings, Chief Nurse NHS England, and Dr Dominic Slowie, NHS England LD Lead, made a presentation to the Council on Transforming Care for People with Learning Disabilities. The Council agreed to support the initiative and Liam Brennan (RcoA) will coordinate the work of Colleges to take forward proposals with NHS England.

### **Physical Health of adults with severe mental illness**

The Council also endorsed a proposal to endorse work initiated by the RCP(L), RCGP and RC Psychiatrists on improving physical health of adults with severe mental illness.

### **Future of Specialist Commissioning**

The Academy endorsed a paper from the RC Ophthalmologists outlining concerns over specialised commissioning. Information will be collated from Colleges and meeting sought with the new NHS England Director of Specialist Commissioning Lead, Dr Jonathan Fielden.

### **Gross Clinical Negligence Manslaughter and Expert Witnesses**

The Council considered a letter from a group of doctors expressing their concerns about the increasing use of criminal manslaughter charges in gross clinical negligence cases and the quality of expert witnesses. The Council was clear that doctors should not be especially exempt from criminal prosecution. It was also agreed that Colleges did not wish to become involved in regulating, vetting or registering expert witnesses. However it was agreed to facilitate a meeting with the coroner's service, Ministry of Justice and other stakeholders about improving standards of expert witnesses

### **Broad Based Training Programme (BBTP)**

The Council noted the HEE proposal not to fund further places on the BBTP in 2016. Members felt this was a retrograde move out of keeping with the direction of the Shape of Training proposals and agreed to write to HEE expressing their concern and asking for the decision to be reconsidered.

### **Coordinating care in primary, community and outpatient settings**

The Council welcomed the publication of the Academy guidance on coordinating care in primary, community and outpatient settings which had been produced at the request of the Secretary of State. The Council thanked Professor Mike Pringle (President RCGP) and Dr David Richmond (President RCOG) and members of the group for their excellent work.

It was also noted that the Secretary of State was proposing a number of measures to support the full implementation of the previous Academy proposals for the responsible Consultant/Clinician in secondary care settings

### **Training quality improvement project – *Training for better outcomes***

The Council endorsed the recommendation of the Academy report on embedding quality improvement (QI) into training at all levels due to be published at the end of the year.

### **Access to Treatments (Innovation) Bill**

The Council noted the passing of second reading of the Bill. It was agreed to reiterate its previous concerns on the Bill but continue engagement on the Bill and meet with Chris Heaton-Harris MP.