

ACADEMY COUNCIL MEETING – 21 NOVEMBER 2017

Summary of key issues

Welcome and Introductions

The Council welcomed Jo Martin, President of the Royal College of Pathologists, to her first meeting as a Council member and thanked Suzy Lishman for her role although she would be staying as a member of the Council having been elected as the additional independent clinical representative on the Academy Board of Trustees.

The Council also welcomed Alice Wort the new Chair of the Academy Trainee's Doctor Group and thanked Jon Bailey for all his work for the ATDG.

Policy Priorities

The Council considered issues arising from its Policy Day held in September and endorsed a paper setting out policy priorities and actions for the coming year. It also signed off a number of "Policy Briefings" which set out details of key Academy policy areas. These will be available for Colleges to use to promote Academy policy in a consistent manner

Onward referral

The Council endorsed the draft guidance produced by the Academy for NHS England on new contractual arrangements covering onward referral between clinicians in secondary care without having to be referred back to the originating GP. The guidance will be published in the new year.

MTI

It was reported that the Academy had held a productive meeting with Philip Dunne MP, Minister for Health to argue for increased capacity for the MTI scheme. The Department of Health understood the potential benefits and will take up the issue with the Home Office.

Winter Pressures Seminar

The Council noted a report of the successful seminar held for Colleges with NHS England and NHS Improvement on 16 November. It was planned to produce a short "common sense" guidance for clinicians. (Now available at <http://www.aomrc.org.uk/publications/reports-guidance/coping-winter-pressures-practical-guide/>)

Professional Regulation - Medical Assistant Practitioners

The Council considered the recent Government consultation on the regulation of Medical Assistant Practitioners (MAPs). The Council agreed that all the four groups should be subject to the same statutory regulation and that the Academy respond to the consultation along these lines and all Colleges are recommended to do the same

Education issues - Costs of Training

The Council recognised the concerns from some trainees as to the possible uses of the information and recognised problems in the process. The AoMRC and COPMED chairs would be writing to the ATDG chair to explain the intent of the costs of training exercise and the differences from the work on costs of study leave.

Faculty of Sport and Exercise Medicine – Moving Medicine initiative

The Council welcomed a presentation from Natasha Jones FSEM Vice-President on their “Moving Medicine” Initiative and looked forward to receiving the proposed materials which would be relevant across specialties

Clinical Standards in digital healthcare

The Council received notice of a proposal from NHS Digital that Colleges should be involved in assuring the clinical content within NHS Digital programmes and services. The proposal was supported in principle and will be considered more fully when further detail is available.

National Clinical Improvement Programme (NCIP)

The Council received a presentation from Sir Norman Williams, DH Clinical Advisor, and welcomed his wish for full College involvement and the support of the profession for the development of the NCIP programme. There will be further direct engagement with Colleges.

Health Service Investigations Bill

The Council welcomed the presentation from William Vineall (DH) on the proposed Health Services Investigations Bill. It was agreed to invite Keith Conradi and Kevin Stewart from the Health Services Investigations Branch to a future meeting of the Council.

Principles to underpin restricting or delaying medical care

Following publicity of recent decisions of CCGs to restrict surgery for obese patients it was agreed to develop a position statement making clear that withholding or delaying treatment should be a clinical decision based on the circumstances of the individual patient and not a rationing decision. John Middleton, President of FPH, will co-ordinate the production of a short statement.

Strengthening governance, accountability, transparency and responsibility within the NHS

The Council considered the lack of clarity over accountability and governance in new care models such as ACOs and the system as a whole and it was agreed to seek clarification and assurances from Government.

Minimum Unit Pricing

The Council warmly welcomed the Supreme Court decision that the Scottish Government policy on Minimum Unit Pricing is legal.

Brexit

The Council noted an update report on Brexit activities. It was agreed that the issue of cross border services in Ireland should be added to the list of Academy issues of concern and to hold a further meeting of the Brexit reference Group in the new year.