

ACADEMY COUNCIL MEETING – 13 NOVEMBER 2013

Summary of key issues

Welcome and thanks

The Council welcomed Dr Maureen Baker, new Chair of RCGP Council, Dr David Richmond, President RCOG and Dr Muj Hussain, new chair of the Academy Trainees Group to their first meeting of the Council.

The Council expressed its sincere thanks to Dr Clare Gerada, Chairman of the RCGP for all her work as a member of the Academy Council and an Academy Officer and wished her well in her future role.

Academy Seven Day Services Report

The Council endorsed the Academy's second report on seven day services to be published on 18 November. The report was aligned to the work being undertaken by NHS England but it was recognised that the Colleges and the profession had led the way on this issue. The Council thank all members for their contribution and Professor Norman Williams, President of the Royal College of Surgeons England for his leadership of the project.

Information and technology

The Council welcomed the publication of the Academy's well received report on information and technology "*i-Care -Information, Communication and Technology in the NHS*". It was noted that NHS England was establishing an Informatics Clinical Reference Group to ensure clinical input to the information agenda. The Group will be co-chaired by Professor Terence Stephenson, the Academy Chairman, and have significant College input.

Urgent and Emergency Care

The Council noted the publication of the NHS England report on Emergency and Urgent Care published on 13 November recognising that the proposals would change the shape of all acute services and not just emergency care. The Council agreed an Academy statement which broadly welcomed the report.

Exams and Ethnicity

The Council noted the current challenges that the MRCGP exams are discriminatory on the grounds of ethnicity. The recent independent GMC commissioned report found that that while there are significant differences in pass rates between different groups of doctors, the way they are assessed is not the cause of those differences. Members recognised that this was an issue for all Colleges. The Academy was very supportive of the RCGP and its clear stance that quality and patient safety issues were paramount in examinations. The Academy agreed that it should respond publicly on the generic issue as appropriate

Shape of Training

The Council noted the publication of the Shape of Training report and the Academy statement. Whilst there was broad support for the report in overall terms it was recognised that decisions on content of key “stems” and potential CCT mergers was going to be a complex and difficult issue. Full College involvement in the process was essential.

The Accountable Clinician

The Council welcomed the recent Academy work flowing from a seminar held with the Secretary of State on how to take forward clear identification of a specific accountable clinician with their “name over the bed” being responsible for individual hospital patients. Guidance will be produced in the New Year.

“Decisions of Value” Project

The Council endorsed a joint project between the Academy and the NHS Confederation which is seeking to produce tools and guidance to assist clinicians and managers in the process of making informed decision when seeking to balance quality and financial requirements.

Extending Powers of the Trust Special Administrator (TSA)

The Government is proposing to ensure that TSAs can make proposals which affect neighbouring organisations when making recommendations about failing trusts. The Council recognised the logic of this but equally felt that affected trusts should be involved and be able to challenge decisions. It was agreed to support any possible amendments to the Care Bill to ensure that trusts affected by TSA proposals were consulted and could put their views to the Secretary of State.

Review of Death Certification

The Academy noted a report on the development of proposals to reform death certification in England and Wales from Professor Peter Furness, ex-President of the Royal College of Pathologists and agreed this was an important issue and members would wish to be involved through the Academy as it was taken forward.

Genomics

The Academy noted the establishment of an Advisory Group on Genomics by Health Education England and a project being led by the RCP London. Members recognised that the issue was going to be hugely important for the whole profession and asked the RCP group to keep the Academy informed of its progress.

Key issues for the NHS

The Academy has been undertaking work on identify what will be the key “big ticket” issues in healthcare over the next twelve months on which there should ideally be a common College position. The Council endorsed the work to date and agreed to the next steps to develop clear lines on the key issues around seven day services, winter pressures, reconfiguration, integration and primary care resourcing.

Sir Neil McKay and Greg Allen – Centre for Workforce Intelligence CfWI

Following the meeting there was a useful discussion with CfWI about ways to improve clinical input and engagement with CfWI on workforce planning.

Reports referred to are available on AoMRC website <http://www.aomrc.org.uk/>