

ACADEMY COUNCIL MEETING – 24 JANUARY 2012

Summary of key issues

NHS and Social Care Bill

There was an extensive discussion on the Health and Social Care Bill. All Colleges and Faculties reported on their current position on the Bill. A number of members reported there was hardening of views against the Bill amongst their fellows. For others the position was unchanged.

In the discussion there was agreement that Colleges and Faculties had continuing concerns over various aspects of the Bill. It was felt that the proposals would widen inequalities and unnecessary competition would undermine high quality integrated care and make it harder to undertake necessary reconfiguration of services. In addition the re-organisation created by the Bill distracted attention from the task of meeting the current financial challenges.

It was proposed that there should be a further statement from the Academy expressing the points above and stating that the Academy and Colleges could not support the Bill as it stands although they were not calling for the withdrawal of the Bill. Any statement would also make clear that Academy and Colleges would continue to work with Government to improve patient care should the Bill be passed

The proposal was supported by all members with the exception of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and it was agreed this would be made clear in any final statement.

The proposal was overtaken by events and an alternative statement was released whilst discussion with Ministers continue.

Clinical commissioning

The Council noted the positive initial discussions with Sir Bruce Keogh about ensuring College and clinical input to the work of the NHS Commissioning Board at all levels. It was recognised this was a significant opportunity for Colleges to help shape the agenda but also a challenge to ensure that effective in-put could be delivered on cross-cutting issues. It was agreed that the Academy would produce a draft paper for initial discussion with members and then with DH on how Colleges could provide clinical input at all levels.

Education and training

The Council noted the Academy's submission to the Health Select Committee, the publication of the Future Forum report on education and training as well as the DH "*Developing the Healthcare Workforce: From Design to Delivery*".

It was agreed that whilst the document made useful statements there was still a need for more detail and particularly clarification and assurance on the role of Deans and agreed to continue to pursue concerns with MEE/HEE

NHS Future Forum

The Council noted the publication of the Future Forum reports on Information, Integration and Public Health and that that several recommendations had explicit or indirect

implications for the Academy and Colleges. It was agreed to pursue recommendations as appropriate particularly in response to leadership on integration.

Benefits of consultant-delivered care

The Council welcomed the launch of the Academy report *"The Benefits of consultant-delivered care"* available at <http://www.aomrc.org.uk/publications/reports-a-guidance.html> and recognised the importance of following this up with the proposed work to map out the staffing and service requirement to implement seven day consultant delivered care.

E-Learning for Healthcare (e-LfH)

The Council considered a report on e-LfH and the opportunity to benefit from overseas sales of College developed e-learning packages through participation in e-Integrity. Colleges agreed they would seek to promote e-LfH products through their international contacts and consider involvement with e-Integrity.

Clinical Vision of the NHS

The Council agreed to support a proposal for the Academy to undertake a project to develop a long term clinical vision for the future of the NHS on a UK-wide basis potentially working with other stakeholders. The project would not begin until later in 2012 at the earliest.

Revalidation – The role of Colleges in remediation

The Council considered a report on the role that Colleges might play in offering remediation services as a logical endpoint to the setting of clinical standards for revalidation. It was agreed to support the principle that Colleges should be involved in remediation and to endorse the proposal in the paper to establish a working group to explore the implications.

College Vice-Presidents Network

The Council endorsed a proposal that the Academy should facilitate the establishment of a network for College Vice-Presidents to share practice and experience.

Election of Academy Chairman

The term of office of Professor Sir Neil Douglas as Chairman of the Academy ends in July and the Council agreed the timetable for the election of a new Chairman. Nominations will be sought in February/March and the election will be held in April. Those eligible to stand are current and immediate previous Presidents of Colleges and Faculties. Details of the timetable will be sent to Colleges and Faculties and be placed on the Academy website.