

ACADEMY COUNCIL MEETING – 24 April 2013

Summary of key issues

Welcomes and thanks

Patricia Peattie (Chair of the Academy Patient Group), Naila Kamal (Chair of the Academy SAS Committee) and Simon Emery (Chair Wales Academy) were all welcomed to their first meeting as co-opted members of the Council

The Council expressed its sincere thanks to Lindsey Davies, President of the Faculty of Public Health, who was demitting office in July for all her work on the Council and for the Academy as a whole.

Academy Seven Consultant Present Care Project

The Council noted the arrangements for the second phase of the Academy's project which will be again led by Professor Norman Williams, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. This will look at the implications of the Academy's previously agreed standards across specialties. It was recognised that introduction of seven day services would have implications for the re-configuration of services but was right in terms of patient safety.

The Council recognised the need for close liaison with both the NHS England project on seven day services and with the BMA in terms of issues of seven day working and phased consultant career in new contract negotiations.

Francis Report

The Council received an oral report of a successful seminar held on 23 April on actions that Colleges and Faculties can take in response to the Francis Report. The outcomes will be developed into an action plan for members to take forward.

Mid-Staffordshire Trust Special Administration

The Council agreed the request from the Trust Special Administrator (TSA) for Mid-Staffordshire, Professor Hugo Mascie-Taylor, that Colleges provide senior members to form a Clinical Advisory Group to advise the TSA on the potential impact of their proposals on patient safety. The Council was clear that it was right that Colleges should be providing this sort of independent input to the process because of their role as custodians of clinical quality standards.

Regulation 75 on procurement and competition

The Council received an oral report of the meeting between Council members and the Secretary of State. It was clear that the Government was not going to withdraw the revised Regulations. It was, therefore, felt particularly important that Colleges should influence the proposed Monitor guidance. It was agreed that the guidance needed to contain strong specific case studies crossing all specialties.

Information and Technology

The Council endorsed a proposal for the Academy to produce a paper for the Secretary of State on the clinical vision for information and technology and what Colleges saw as key areas for early improvement.

The Council noted an upcoming meeting with NHS England to discuss clinical input to the implementation of their information and technology proposals.

Academy Active Transport Report

The Council welcomed the draft report “Interventions to increase physical activity (especially active transport) and reduce health inequalities” produced by the Academy’s Health Inequalities Forum. Members will submit comments on the report which will be published in due course.

Faculty of Medical Management and Leadership (FMLM)

The Council noted with pleasure that Colleges had been invited to nominate six of the members for the new FMLM Council. The FMLM link back to Colleges was recognised as important and nominations will now be sought from Colleges and Faculties.

Legal challenges to College examinations

The Council heard from the Royal College of General Practitioners about legal challenges to their MRCGP examination on grounds of discrimination. Members were clear that whilst this was currently an issue affecting the RCGP it was a matter of relevance and concern for all Colleges. The Council agreed that the Academy Education Assessment Committee should co-ordinate any required cross-College activity or information.

Shape of Training Review

It was reported that the Academy is giving oral evidence to Professor David Greenaway and the Shape of Training Review on 30 April. The Academy Trainee Doctors Group has also been invited to an oral evidence session. A number of individual Colleges will also be giving evidence.

Meeting with Professor Wendy Reid, Medical Director Health Education England (HEE)

At the close of the meeting members had a useful meeting with Professor Wendy Reid, Medical Director Health Education England (HEE). Issues discussed included

- The development of HEE and LETBs
- Education Outcomes Framework
- Medical workforce planning arrangements
- Ensuring education/training provision in services commissioned by CCGs
- Quality assurance of training
- Ensuring time for training and trainers