

Academy Council Policy Day

Summary of key issues

Academy Council in Ireland

The Academy held its first meeting in Ireland as guests of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) in Dublin. With the imminence of Brexit it seemed opportune to visit our members in Ireland – the RCSI and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

Council members had the opportunity to visit the RCSI's extremely impressive new education centre at 26 York Street with splendid education and simulation facilities. Prior to the formal Council meeting we had a series of interesting presentations on current healthcare issues in Ireland including workforce challenges on recruitment, retention and workforce planning; challenges to professionalism and clinical leadership. It was very interesting to hear of the challenges facing the service in Ireland and recognise the similarity of the issues in the different context.

The Council expressed its warm appreciation to the Irish Colleges and to the RCSI for their hospitality at the meeting and the dinner for the Council.

Welcome, Introductions and Farewells

The Council welcomed Ros Levenson the newly appointed chair of the Academy Patient Lay Committee and expressed its thanks to the previous APLC chair, Peter Rees, for all his work for the APLC and the Council.

The Council also bade farewell to John Middleton, President of the Faculty of Public Health, who is demitting office and thanked him for his work.

NHS England Long Term Plan Implementation

The Council received a presentation from Emily Hough, Director of the Strategy at NHS England, on implementation of the NHS England Long Term Plan. An implementation framework is to be published which will set out next steps without being prescriptive on local action. NHSE emphasised the importance of continued engagement with Colleges and clinicians at national and local level.

The Council said that the Academy and Colleges would be happy to assist particularly if NHSE identifies areas where further action is required.

Review of Standards

The Council considered a report on the NHS England review of clinical standards in four areas – cancer, mental health, elective care (18 weeks) and urgent and emergency care. The Council noted that process and engagement with Colleges was now working well. It was positive that there were plans for proper testing and independent evaluation, as Colleges had recommended. If changes



are proposed it will be important to learn the lessons from previous experience and recognise there will be a big task in engaging clinicians.

Workforce

Publication of the NHSE/I Interim Workforce Implementation Plan (The People Plan) had been expected but has been delayed. There will be on-going involvement for Colleges to take forward actions when the plan is published.

In terms of Academy and College activity, it has not been possible to produce cross-College workforce data because of the variation in information. Members recognised the value of having a single source of agreed data. The Academy will work with Colleges in seeking to define what should constitute a core medical workforce data set but also engage directly with HEE/NHSI on defining core requirements.

SAS Doctors

The Council noted the publication of the HEE/NHSI report on supporting SAS doctors. There are two recommendations for Colleges. Provision of access for SAS doctors to College e-portfolios has already been done or is being considered by Colleges. Secondly, Colleges endorsed the principle that SAS doctors should be eligible to be clinical or education supervisors recognising, like all supervisors, they must be properly trained for the role.

Transparency on examination

The Council recognised the commitment made in 2017 for openness and transparency in exam costs for trainees and agreed to ensure that information is available on websites.

Workforce Race Equality and the Medical Workforce

The Council considered a series of recommendations arising from a workshop organised by the Workforce Race Equality Standards Group. The Council was very supportive of the intent and principle of the recommendation and will discuss with WRES the most appropriate way for the Academy and Colleges to help take forward the proposals.

Commissioning Sexual Health Services

The Academy endorsed a proposal from FRS, RCOG and RCGP to call for integrated commissioning of sexual health services.

Choosing Wisely

The Council noted recent development in the Academy's Choosing Wisely work which is changing its focus toward shared decision making. It was also reported that NHS England has set up a clinical reference group to advise its Evidence Based Interventions programme which will be co-chaired by Martin Marshall, RCGP Vice-Chair, and Sir Terence Stephenson, previous Chair of the GMC. College engagement in the process will be essential.

Management of critically ill children

It was agreed that the RCoA, RCPCH and other relevant Colleges would meet to discuss issues over the effective team management of critically ill children and bring proposals back to the Council.