

Academy Council Meeting

Summary of key issues

Welcome, Introductions and Farewells

The Council bade farewell and thanks to Nicola Strickland who is demitting office as President of RCR and also to Kirstin May who demits office as SAS Committee chair in August when Waleed Arshad takes over.

The Council welcomed Katherine Henderson (RCEM) and Jeanette Dixon (RCR) who attending the Council as Presidents-elect of their respective Colleges.

The Council congratulated Martin Marshall on his recent election as RCGP Council Chair to take over from Helen Stokes-Lampard in November.

Workforce

The Council noted the publication of the NHSE/I Interim People Plan. The content of the plan was supported but it will be essential to ensure appropriate College involvement in specific work – flexibility, the future role of the doctor, medical workforce numbers, acute multi-professional teams.

Joint Professions Workforce Statement

The Council agreed a statement produced following a meeting of the Academy with other clinical professional bodies on team working and how best to take forward the People Plan. This will be put on the Academy website.

Pensions

While terms and conditions of service are not matters for Colleges and the Academy, it is clear that the pensions issue has become hugely important. The focus of Colleges and the Academy is the impact it is having on retention and hence on workforce capacity. Staff are leaving or reducing their working time and this is impacting on the service. It was felt this is reaching a tipping point. The Council was clear that the long-term solution must be taxation changes but there may be action to ameliorate the position. The Academy has been asked to submit information to NHS England on any proposals which have helped doctors locally. The Council recognised that we need to ensure these are robust and do not have adverse unintended consequences for doctors or other staff.

NHS England Long Term Plan Implementation

The Council noted the publication of the implementation framework for the NHS England Long Term Plan. It was agreed that the Academy would submit a short response to the Health Select



Committee Inquiry into the funding requirement not covered in the NHS financial settlement i.e. capital, education and training, public health and social care.

Review of Standards

The Council considered an update 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 recognises the rationale for the review and for potential changes. It is however going to be essential that there is full transparency over the data obtained from the pilot sites before final decisions are made. In addition, new metrics will be meaningless if there is not the staffing available to deliver the service.

Genomics

The Council received a report on recent work of the College Genomics champions and discussions with NHS England. There remain tensions over some issues but progress is being made.

Service Accreditation

The Council had a full discussion of clinical service accreditation. Several Colleges run clinical accreditation schemes. There was support for the principle of clinical service accreditation but recognition that it can be burdensome to establish and run. It was agreed to explore a statement engaging with CQC and NHS England.

Primary Secondary Care Interface Statement

The Council agreed to endorse and adapt a statement on principles of good communication and cooperation at the primary secondary care interface produced by the RCGP in Northern Ireland. The clear simple principles were welcomed.

Choosing Wisely

The Council noted recent development in the Academy's Choosing Wisely work which is changing its focus toward shared decision making. Martin Marshall reported on the NHS England Clinical Reference Group set up to advise its Evidence Based Interventions programme.

Medical Examiners

The Council received an update from Dr Suzy Lishman on the introduction of the Medical Examiners scheme. The National and seven regional medical examiners have now been appointed as well as MEs in many trusts.

FMLM Chartered Status

The Council agreed to support the Faculty of Medical Leadership and Management's bid to obtain chartered status.