



Academy Council Meeting

Summary of key issues

November / 2020

Welcome and introduction

The Council held its fourth virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams and the first formal Council meeting with Helen Stokes-Lampard in the chair.

The Council welcomed Michael Osborn, RC Pathologists, to the Council and recorded its warm thanks to Jo Martin, the College's outgoing President, for all her work for the Academy as an Officer and a Council member.

The Council noted with pleasure that Professor Carrie MacEwen, the previous Chair, had been appointed chair of the Health Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP).

Race Equality Data

The Council noted the responses to an Academy survey of College activity on issues relating to race equality. It is clear there is a wide range of activity underway on membership, representation, and service issues even if there is still plenty of progress still to be made. It was agreed to collect returns from all Colleges and for the Academy to then collate the information into a single document for further consideration. The Council also noted the progress on the collection of the NHSE Medical Workforce Race Equality standards (MWRES) information.

MTI

The Council was very concerned to note that recent Government decisions on waiving fees for visa extensions and application of the NHS surcharge were not being applied to MTI doctors. It was agreed to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Home Secretary to seek to reverse this blatantly differential treatment of MTI doctors on health surcharge.

COVID-19

The Council noted the current position which is discussed in detail in other regular meetings. It was agreed that the Academy should produce a short report on lessons learned in the new year. This should be on the principle of learning not blame and should incorporate the positive lessons. It would also include lessons for Academy as well as the service and policy issues.

Public naming of doctors

The Council endorsed its decision, made electronically, to support a RCPCH statement in relation to a current legal case saying that a doctor involved in a dispute over the care of a child should not be publicly named. The Council also considered whether such a position should be adopted across specialties. It was recognised this was a complex and difficult issue which needed fuller consideration. It was agreed to hold a Roundtable in the new year with external stakeholders, and particularly patient groups, to explore the issue.



Rethinking Medicine

Council noted that the Academy had secured some initial funding from NHSE/I for some scoping work on Rethinking Medicine.

Duty of Candour

The Council considered an issue raised by the RCPCH arising from recommendations on criminal sanctions and the duty of candour in the O'Hara Inquiry into Hyponatremia Related Deaths in 2018, following the deaths of five children in hospitals in Northern Ireland. The Council supported the RCPCH position and agreed that there is no evidence that criminal sanctions for not applying duty of candour would be beneficial. There is evidence that applying criminal sanctions reduces openness with respect to patient safety and error.

SAS Doctors

The Council supported the Academy and Colleges' involvement in the creation of a competency framework and possible assessment mechanisms for the proposed new senior SAS doctors grade. Carrie MacEwen is chairing a group involving College, BMA and NHS Employers representatives to take this forward.

Council also endorsed two documents produced by the SAS Committee on [Wellbeing of the SAS workforce](#) and [SAS doctors and dentists and research](#).

Evidence Based Interventions (EBI)

The Council noted information on the second wave of the EBI initiative would be published on the Academy website shortly and as agreed the Academy would be taking forward the third wave.

Brexit Update

The Council noted that there is still no trade agreement with only a few weeks until the end of transition and this posed real challenges to the NHS.

NHS Legislation

The Council noted an oral report on forthcoming NHSE/I consultation paper on proposed legislation around ICS and collaboration.

Health Informatics

Following discussions with some Colleges, the Council agreed to support the establishment of an informal cross College network on informatics/digital agenda.

Refugee Doctors

It was agreed to hold a Roundtable for Colleges with relevant stakeholders on ways that Colleges could help support refugee doctors into employment in the NHS.

NHS Infrastructure Plan

It was agreed to seek to establish a reference group of interested College members to provide input to NHSE/I thinking on design of healthcare premises.

Differential Attainment

The Council welcomed the GMC report of studies of College activity supporting successful training for BAME doctors.