

# Academy Council Meeting

## Summary of key issues

July / 2021

### Welcomes, introductions and farewells

Mike McKirdy, President Elect RCPSG, was welcomed to the meeting as were independent trustees Miller Mclean and Suzanne McCarthy as observers.

Congratulations to Mike Osborn (President RC Pathology) and Bernie Chang (President RC Ophthalmologists) on their appointment as Council members on the Board of Trustees.

The Council thanked Academy Clinical Fellow Cian Wade who finishes his placement shortly and wished him all the best for his future.

### Membership

The Council agreed to support an application for membership of the Academy from the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. We are now going through the formal process and will be delighted to welcome the Faculty as a new member from 1 September.

Observer status on Council was agreed for a representative from the recently formed Northern Ireland College network. We were subsequently joined by their representative, Dr Andrew Diver, who was warmly welcomed to the Council.

### Mandatory staff vaccination

The Council considered its policy on mandatory vaccination of NHS staff against COVID or flu. It was fully recognised that there are mixed views on the issue and there will be some public support for mandatory staff vaccination. However, although members entirely support all staff being vaccinated, there was an overall feeling that mandating was not practicable or probably necessary. It was therefore agreed to endorse the interim Academy statement not to support mandating of vaccination for staff on pragmatic grounds and adopt it as Academy policy.

### Work for the wider NHS

The Council agreed a draft letter from the RCP for the Academy to propose to the four CMOs, NHSE Medical Director and Chief Executive to send to all employers to encourage them to release doctors for work for the wider NHS. This is a perennial issue and clear messages from the centre can assist in the process.

### Gender Pay Gap

The Council considered a report from the group looking at how to take forward the recommendations from Dame Jane Dacre's Gender Pay Gap report which impact on Colleges. The Academy will take forward the proposed suggestions raising the issues with Colleges or external stakeholders as appropriate.



## EDI in Academy Committees

Council considered how to ensure its committees reflect equality, diversity and inclusion in the membership. This is an issue for all Colleges and Faculties but with the added complication that the Academy has little choice over the selection of committee members as they are almost all College nominees. It was agreed to adopt a statement of principle but also to undertake an audit of current membership and to review that data.

## Education and Training update

Jeanette Dickson, Academy Vice Chair and Education Lead, gave an update on education issues including on assessment issues, differential attainment, Foundation mentoring and the review of Specialty Advisory Committees (SACs).

## SAS Doctors – Appraisal

The Council endorsed a paper from the SAS Group to circulate to Colleges with a recommendation to ensure that all College appraisal work is SAS inclusive.

## Invited Reviews

Council received an update on initial discussions with Colleges on potential revisions of the Academy framework guidance on Invited Reviews.

## Sepsis

The Council heard that the cross-College guidance on sepsis being prepared for the Academy on sepsis by the FICM was nearly complete and would be circulated to members.

## Management of really sick patients with anorexia nervosa (MARSIPAN) guidance

The Council agreed in principle to endorse the RC Psychiatrists revision of their “MARSIPAN” guidance on eating disorders currently underway. The final document will come to Council.

## NHS Legislation

The Council noted a report on the current position in respect of the proposed Health and Care Bill. It was agreed that the key issues for the Academy to pursue would be integration and particularly clinical involvement in ICS, workforce planning and public health issues. The Council agreed to the Academy pursuing amendments on workforce planning.

## Prescription Charges Consultation

Council agreed to call for a phased change to the raising the age for prescription charges and also to point out the very real problems for many multi-morbid patients in the age group. The anomalies in the current medical exemptions will also be highlighted.

## Policy Day

Council agreed items for discussion at the Academy Policy Day in September including education reform, HEEs workforce review and, hopefully, a discussion with the NHSE CEO.

## Academy Strategic Review

The Council noted the strategic review of the Academy’s work initiated by the Board and members were invited to nominate representatives to take part in the review.