



Academy Council Meeting

Summary of key issues

November / 2021

Welcomes, introductions and farewells

The Council welcomed Flic Gabbay (Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine), Gary Howsam (RCGP vice-chair) and Matt Clarke (Chair Trainee Group) to their first meeting as Council members.

The Council thanked Tim Heginbottam (FPM) and Michael Mullholland (RCGP) who have demitted office and so left the Council and John Etherington (FSEM) and Jackie Taylor (RCPSG) who demit office shortly. The Council also thanked Anna Olsson-Brown the previous Trainee Chair for all her work on behalf of trainees and wished her well for the future.

Elective Recovery Plan

Sir Jim Mackey, NHSE Elective Recovery Advisor, and Steve Powis, NHSE Medical Director, spoke about the proposed elective care recovery plan. The proposals were broadly welcomed with members emphasizing the need for workforce capacity, ensuring there is no adverse impact of health inequalities and achieving a balance with the current emergency and urgent care pressures.

HEE

Navina Evans, HEE chief executive, spoke to the Council about the future for HEE following the announcement of the Government's intention to merge HEE into NHSE/I. She emphasised the need to protect funding for education and training and to maintain activity during the transition. The Council expressed its support for HEE staff and the wish to remain closely engaged throughout the process.

Jo Lenaghan, HEE Director of Strategy, introduced the HEE workforce framework document which had been the subject of recent consultation. The framework will not identify specific staffing numbers required but provide the structure and context for more detailed work.

NHSD/NHSX

Matthew Gould (NHSD Chief Executive), Tim Ferris (NHSEI Director of Transformation) and Simon Eccles (Chief Clinical Information Officer) spoke to the Council about the proposal to merge NHSD and NHSX into NHSEI. They all felt that the proposal reflected the current direction of travel and would support better alignment and clear single voice on the digital agenda.

The Council subsequently endorsed an Academy statement on the ALB reconfiguration which recognised the rationale but expressed concern at the potential disruption.

Short-term workforce solutions

The Council endorsed an Academy paper collating College suggestions for short-term workforce solution which will now be published shortly.



Gender equality

The Council endorse a response to Dame Jane Dacre's Gender Pay Gap report produced by an Academy group of college members. The response will be published shortly.

Education and training update

The Council received an update on the range of recent Academy education and training work.

SAS career path

The Council endorsed a paper from the SAS Committee on promoting SAS as a career path. The document will be circulated to Colleges and external stakeholders.

Invited Reviews

Council endorsed the revised framework guidance on Invited Reviews which has been produced following extensive discussions with Colleges. There are still some further discussions to take place with external stakeholders but the finalised document will then be published.

Use of social media

Council considered the issue of how abusive behaviour by health professionals should be managed both in an NHS and a College context. The current GMC guidance was felt to be good but the issue should be explicitly referred to the next iteration of Good Medical practice currently being revised. The Academy will take this up with the GMC.

Reciprocal recognition of professional qualifications post Brexit

At the request of the RCS in Ireland the Council considered the question of continued reciprocal recognition of professional qualifications. It was reported that the GMC and DHSC are working on this and there would be a briefing arranged for Colleges with DHSC/GMC.

Sustainability

Following COP26 the Council agreed to revise and strengthen the Academy's current position on climate change. The Trainee Group will be asked to take forward this work.

Diagnosis of Death

It was agreed to set up a working group to revise the Academy's authoritative guidance on confirmation and diagnosis of death. The guidance needs updating and members will be asked to nominate representatives to participate.

Academy Strategic Review

The Council endorse a paper arising from the discussions at of the Academy Strategic re-view by the member working group and at the Policy Day.