



# Academy Council meeting

## Summary of key issues

### Welcomes, introductions and farewells

The Council welcomed Natasha Jones (Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine) and Mike McKirdy (Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow) to their first formal meeting as Council members.

Council said farewell to Ronan O'Connell (Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland) and also to Charles Winstanley, Chair of the Academy Board of Trustees, who were both demitting office and thanked them for their contributions to Council and the Academy.

### Vaccination as a condition of deployment [VCOD]

Council discussed the position following the Government's decision to reverse the requirement for mandatory vaccination for NHS and social care staff in England. The Council reiterated its view that mandating was not the right approach while acknowledging the clear view from the Chair of the Patient Lay Group that she felt it was a patient safety issue and should be a requirement. The Council agreed on the importance of vaccination and agreed a joint statement with the GMC .

### Medical emergencies in eating disorders: Guidance on recognition and management

Council considered new guidance on eating disorders from the Royal College of Psychiatrists which has implications across specialties. The Council agreed in principle to adopt the guidance, but members will send any comments to RC Psych and it will be signed off in due course.

### Pain management strategy

Council considered a new pain management strategy produced by the Faculty of Pain Management at the Royal College of Anaesthetists. It was agreed in principle to support the strategy but members will send any comments to the Faculty and it will be signed off in due course.

### Engaging and empowering the SAS workforce.

Council endorsed an excellent paper from the SAS group on engaging and empowering the SAS workforce. This will appear on the Academy website shortly.

### Telemedicine service for early medical abortion

The Council supported the RCOG/FRSH call for the permanent implementation of the telemedicine for early medical abortion (EMA) service and for the UK Government to continue provision indefinitely beyond 30th March 2022. The statement is on the [Academy website](#).

### NHS England Recovery Plan

It was noted that the NHSE Recovery Plan had been launched on Monday. Colleges were likely to be asked to support NHSE work on estimating the extent of expected “bounce-back” across specialties.

### Release for work for the wider NHS

The Academy is continuing to press for a letter to be sent from the UK health departments and CMOs urging employers to ensure doctors are released for work for the benefit of the wider NHS. This obviously includes College work. Council was clear it is important to push for this at the current time.

### Education and training

Jeanette Dickson, RCR President and Academy Education Lead, updated Council on recent Academy education and training work including differential attainment, academic dishonesty, DEMEC and the SAC review.

### Invited Reviews

Council noted that the revised Academy framework on Invited College Reviews had been agreed by external stakeholders and would be published shortly.

### Advancing Mental Health Equality (AMHE)

Adrian James, President RC Psych, gave an informative presentation on the successful RC Psychiatrists initiative with Trusts on Advancing Mental Health Equality.

### Health information on social media platforms

Council considered an Academy commentary on a paper from the US National Association of Medicine (NAM) on assuring the credibility of health information on social media platforms. This follows discussions the Academy has had with Google and NHSE. The Council recognised the importance of the issue and supported the Academy paper and continuing discussions on the issue.

### Global Vaccine Equity

It was agreed that the Academy should update its statement on global vaccine equity made last year. Colleges will comment on the draft Academy statement which will then be issued.

### Update reports

The Council noted a series of reports updating on developments on:

- Health and Care Bill and Integration White Paper
- Evidence Based Interventions Programme – Wave Three
- Academy Genomics work
- The forthcoming GMC review of Good Medical Practice Review
- GMC work on recognition of overseas qualification and access to the specialist and GP registers
- Assuring the clinical quality of NHS Pathways