



Academy Council meeting

Summary of key issues

Welcomes, introductions and farewells

The Chair welcomed Phil McCarvill who has joined the Academy as the Director of Policy and Government Affairs and John-Paul Mattar, the new Workforce Policy Manager at the Academy. It was noted that this was Alastair Henderson's last Council meeting prior to his retirement as CEO.

NHSE Workforce Strategy

The Council received a presentation from Barny Leavers, NHS Director for the Workforce Strategy. He outlined the current position on publication and potential increases in medical workforce numbers. He stressed this would be an ongoing and iterative process with continued college involvement as it goes forward.

Members welcomed any significant increases in the medical workforce and emphasised the need for detailed involvement in discussions on specialty numbers. It was also stated that with the time lag in new doctors coming onstream, retention remains the key issue at the current time. Council thanked Barny for his presentation and continuing work.

Supporting clinical and care professional leadership in ICS

Council noted a proposal for work with the NHS Confederation ICS Network on supporting clinical leadership in ICS. It was recognised that any offering would need to reflect the outcomes of the Hewitt Review.

Presentation from Vin Diwakar, Deputy Medical Director NHSE

Vin introduced himself and his work areas which cover:

- Operational improvement (including diagnostics)
- Clinical effectiveness (GIRFT, devices registries)
- Transformation (Digitisation, online services to public)

He also spoke of the recently published Urgent and Emergency Care Strategy emphasising the system wide approach to the issues.

Academy Digital Network

Marcus Baw (RCGP), Chair of the Academy Digital Network introduced the work of the Network and stressed the importance of involvement from all Colleges. Council agreed to fully support the work of the Network recognising the importance of the Digital agenda.

Supporting the NHS model

Council approved a statement which expressed its clear support for the current NHS model of care based on clinical need not ability to pay and funded through general taxation.

Education and Training update

Mike McKirdy, President RCPSG, the Academy Vice-Chair and Education lead, presented an update on education issues including work on nullification of exam attempts, differential attainment and running on-line exams.

Anti-conversion therapy statement

Council agreed a [statement on banning conversion therapy](#) which incorporated comments from members. Members were urged to promote the statement.

Supporting child nutrition

The Academy gave support in principle to a letter from the Faculty of Public Health and other public health leaders to the Prime Minister on expanding access to Free School Meals, the National School Breakfast Programme, and the Healthy Start scheme. The text has been circulated to members.

Social Care

The RCP proposed that the Academy should develop a stronger position on the need for social care reform. Members were supportive of the proposal, but it was recognised that in order to secure support from local authority organisations it was important to argue the case for the totality of social care and not just discharge to care homes. It was agreed to work with LGA and ADASS on development of a statement.

Party Conferences

Council considered a report of feedback on the Academy events for members at last Autumn's party conferences. While the Academy events were appreciated there were, as ever, mixed views as to the value of attendance at Party Conferences, particularly in the light of the low attendance by MPs. It was agreed to keep the matter under review and seek expressions of interest nearer the time and make a decision based on the level of support but also to consider some alternative forms of engagement with politicians at Westminster.

Election of Academy Chair

Council endorsed the timetable for the election of the next Academy Council chair as Helen Stokes-Lampard demits office in July. Nominations are now being sought and a ballot will be held in March.

Update reports

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

- Evidence Based Interventions Programme
- Academy Genomics work
- The education and workforce research hub
- The National Clinical Assurance Group
- Implementation of the Messenger review proposals.