



Academy Council Meeting

02.03.2022 via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES FROM MEETING – 02 MARCH 2022

Chair: Abrie Theron

Chair welcomed colleagues and gave apologies for absences received:

- Angela Mutlow: CHC
- Rowena Christmas: RCGP Wales
- Alka Ahuja: RCPsych
- Chris Jones: DCMO
- Steven Backhouse: ENT
- Clifford Jones: EoLC Representative
- Phillip Wardle: RCR.

1. CMO Update: Frank Atherton

Mentioned the slow relaxation of restrictions in Scotland, Wales and NI and rapid pace in England. Political choice. In Wales, arguing strongly for a slower pace and also what we need to retain from the changes i.e. TTP programme, particularly if a new variant comes along. Need to ensure have enough capacity to do diagnostics and have testing capacity to protect hospitals and care homes too. Overall going reasonably well in COVID space.

Mentioned Ukraine and how it may impinge on us - repatriation flights have begun. 100-200k displaced people likely to arrive in the UK and expectation would be that Wales would need to take a portion of that so social services are stepping up and putting plans in place. For now, just need to watch how it progresses and continue with preparation planning.

Medical supplies coming into the UK are not likely to be disrupted. There is now a ban on Russian registered ships but not expecting problems there.

The NHS Executive is moving on but has not been signed off yet but should be in the very near future.

Wanted to recognise acute pressures are still extreme with winter pressures. Planned care catch up - all Health Boards are being challenged with this. IPC rules are there for a purpose but are slowing things down. They will be relaxed when they can and, in the meantime, progress still needs to be made.

2. DHSC Wales Presentation

AT welcomed guests from Digital Health and Care Wales, Helen Thomas CEO and Rhidian Hurlle Medical Director.

Their latest priorities to develop are:

- E-prescribing
- AI to share data and drive prevention, detection and diagnosis
- Digital inclusion
- Use of technology for seamless local health and care.

ACTION: JW to circulate this presentation deck with meeting minutes for everyone to view.

ACTION: AT to diarise to invite again in 12 months to provide an update.

3. PRSB Presentation

AT welcomed guests from Professional Records Standards Body, Andrew Hall Advisor to PRSB, Lorraine Foley Chief Executive, Helene Feger Director Strategy Comms & Engagement and Alannah McGovern Membership and Stakeholder Manager.

Four Nations Objectives:

- Ensure PRSB's role and work is valued/used by all four nations
- Engage with National leavers and delivery arms within each nation
- Build four nations into the DNA of PRSB's work and messaging
- Actively involve the Devolved Nations in their work programme.

ACTION: JW to circulate this presentation deck with meeting minutes for everyone to view.

4. Chairs Report: Abrie Theron

Minutes from last meeting, 6 pages (06.12.21) checked. DB verified accurate reflection of meeting - AT confirmed them.

AT wrote letter to Minister to wish her a Happy Christmas and included the 12 points and copied in Helen Stokes-Lampard.

No-one has sent mobile numbers to AT so seems WhatsApp group is not wanted currently so will close that action.

Not yet spoken to Helen or Alistair re website hosting but will discuss with them both soon as also need to discuss ongoing funding around admin support. Will update when has more information on this.

Advance Future Care Plan Group. JFM has decided to step down, thank you to her. Clifford Jones is happy to become link person via RCGP Wales and all happy with that.

AT wrote to Helen Stokes-Lampard and Frank Atherton congratulating them on their damehood and knighthood in the Queen's New Years Honours.

HEIW stakeholder meeting - AT couldn't attend but circulated request for evidence that came from it to Council. Became obvious Colleges haven't seen it before so wondered if was meant more for Health Board due to timing.

AMRCW UK Council feedback was circulated by AT separately.

AT has received a request for someone from AMRCW to sit on the UK Covid-19 enquiry board. Contact AT if you'd like to be put forward to this.

Revalidation oversight group: AT sat as Vice-Chair previously. Rowena Christmas will join next week but if anyone would like to take over as AMRCW representative, please let AT know.

5. National guidance on appointment of NHS Wales consultants: Olwen Williams

Thanked everyone for feedback and comments - all fed back on draft circulated and is now sitting with WG waiting to be updated.

Felt made progress with one Health Board but sadly there is no evidence coming through so wait and see still but hopefully progression will now come with a new Medical Director.

6. HEIW Update - Tom Lawson

Impact of pandemic on training has been significant system wide. Now at the stage of looking at what worked well and could be continued and what needs changing.

Recruitment figures across Wales continue to look good. Noticeable areas core surgery recruitment wasn't good - reflected across the UK and influenced by the fact surgery has been impacted so much throughout the pandemic so work to do about how to reengage and reassure people of direction of travel in some of these areas e.g., orthopaedics. Strategies in place to support this.

One of the areas of concern is we have tired trainers - expectations of service recovery and what they provide as trainers. Need to think about how else college and HEIW can support trainers - important cog in this. Most of trainer's roles sit within local health boards. Discussion is happening with UK Academy leads in coordinated way.

Direction of travel multi-professional training in primary care. State related infrastructure issue across Wales. Gathering pace and capacity to increase training happening across Wales. Still cognisant of pressures on trainers. Not just about numbers but it must be in conjunction with quality and capacity.

Leading the way in the new curricular - more emphasis of need for ability of time for generic training and not just patient facing. HEIW building more resources to help importance of this and how it can be made available and support implementation.

Implementing the single lead employer mode (with NWSSP as lead employer) has been associated with some challenges but most of the early issues have been addressed. Good collaboration between NWSSP, UHBs and HEIW. There are significant benefits to trainees and the NHS in Wales from this approach and all trainees will have been enrolled into the SLE model by May 2022.

Good progress with increasing medical student numbers in Wales, but further expansion needed. Political support for a new medical school in North Wales- in the interim medical student numbers based in North Wales will be increased using the existing arrangements with Cardiff and Swansea Medical schools.

Junior Dr Contract progressing well. In terms of implementation - David Bailey not sure on timescales, dubious about whether will be available for next academic year. Jonathan Kell - pay discrepancy for histopathologists between England and Wales. Ministers have said will be in the next contract review and DB confirmed it is on the agenda to negotiate and resolve.

7. GMC Update: Manel Tippett

Legislation on the regulation of MAPs is progressing somewhat slowly but the GMC MAPs Team are on track to meet our internal deadlines on our core programmes of work. We've had positive response from stakeholders on PA and AA curricula and colleagues have completed the analysis of the feedback. We're on track to open engagement on revalidation for PAs and will be presenting this to the NHS Wales Workforce Directors group in April. We hold a Community of Interest on the GMC webpages so can join that if want to receive regular updates.

PLAB 2 testing – was cancelled in December due to the outbreak of the Omicron variant. All priority candidates (so those with a UK/job offer/training place) were offered a PLAB2 place in Feb; other UK based doctors have been offered a PLAB2 place before June; and all other doctors were able to book a place from June onwards with the majority securing dates in June/July

Dr in Training roundtable was held yesterday. There are 4 a year, UK wide, with the opportunity for trainees to speak to the Director of Education and Training. Spoke specifically this time on issues from pandemic around progression. Working with HEIW to look at this in more detail and what can be done. Also looked at equality and diversity particularly needing additional support.

Equality Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I) is central to our work in Wales. We're continuing to meet with our partners around addressing issues of inequality, for example with the BMA and RO's around disproportionate referrals of ethnic minority doctors to our FtP process, and working with HEIW around differential attainment. We have presented to several groups including the BMA on the results of our 2019 SAS survey and clustering report and are working with HEIW to see how we can make the environments for SAS doctors better.

Key dates:

- National training survey - launched on 22 March running to 3 May. The Trainer survey is more streamlined to make it easier to respond to.
- GMC Conference - 4 May in a hybrid way. Many workshops could be of interest to members.

- UKAF 9 June - Save the date sent to AT and DB - in person - focus discussions around what workforce looks like and HEIW will be presenting on strategy for the future.

We are reviewing good medical practice guidance - last looked at in 2012. Work has been done around it already and it's been decided it will be an evolution of guidance rather than overhaul. Tone to be more empathetic. Could as many council members reply to this when it comes out - around the time of the conference and please encourage as many trainees and trainers to respond.

ACTION: Requested to give update on the guidance changes at next AMRCW Council Meeting.

ACTION: MT to send JPJ an update on the delays to CESR application.

ACTION: MT to look at complaints data to see if these have increased since the pandemic.

ACTION: MT to send IMGs link from GMC website to JPJ

8. AOB: All

a) DRSB membership - AT doesn't see reason not to join. Asked if anyone objected and AT will circulate information they provide. No objections.

b) David Tuthill has been asked to be a representative on Healthy Weight Healthy Wales Implementation Board. Launched 2 years ago and is very keen to set the tone of it right for life. The invite is to sit as the rep of all Royal Colleges - can feedback into this meeting and can take comments the other way also. AT very supportive of this so asked if anyone had any other thoughts. All in agreement.

c) AMRCW Admin Support - advised would be Jennie Williams' last meeting. Jennie thanked for her hard work over the past 2-3 years. Wants to fund on an hourly rate for just the 4 meetings per year.

ACTION: All take back to central colleges to see if anyone would be interested to do this via procurement through the college or personally outside the colleges

d) Next meeting in June. Next academic year in September to have in Life Sciences Hub. JPJ - would prefer one meeting a year in person a year seems right from a sustainability point of view.

ACTION: JW to send contact details to AT for Life Sciences Hub.

Next meeting date: Monday 13 June