



Academy Council Policy Day

Summary of key issues

The Academy Council held its annual Policy Day at the Royal College of Anaesthetists on 20/21 September. This provides an opportunity to consider a small number of items in depth outside the constraints of a normal business meeting and also to agree policy priorities for the coming year.

The Council thanked Sir Andrew Goddard [RCP] and Jeanette Dickson [RCR and Academy Vice-Chair] who had recently demitted office and said farewell and thank-you to members at the meeting for whom this was their last Academy meeting – Mike Griffin [RCSEd], Katherine Henderson [RCEM], Gary Howsam [RCGP], Asha Kasliwal [FRSH], Martin Marshall [RCGP] and Alison Pittard [FICM].

Seminar – Professor Sir Michael Marmot

On the evening of 20th Professor Sir Michael Marmot, Professor of Epidemiology at University College London, Director of the UCL Institute of Health Equity was the speaker at the opening seminar. Sir Michael is the acknowledged authority on inequalities and their impact on health and spoke compellingly on the impact of austerity, the pandemic and the cost of living crisis on health inequalities and set out the case for well-being and equity being at the heart of Government policy. There was then a Q and A session with a very open discussion of a wide range of issues.

Amanda Pritchard and Sir Steve Powis

We were pleased to be joined by Amanda Pritchard, NHS England CEO, and Sir Steve Powis, NHS Medical Director. Amanda spoke about the current pressures on the system but also about the continuing achievements of the NHS. She talked of the need for clinical leadership and how to harness the creativity shown in addressing COVID

challenges and how to get the right balance in managing risk across the system. Amanda and Steve then openly addressed questions from members on workforce, pensions and service issues.

The changing medical workforce

Professor Wendy Reid, HEE Medical Director, Professor Sheona MacLeod, Deputy Medical Director at HEE and Professor Rowan Parks, NES Deputy Medical led a session on the implications of the changing shape of the medical workforce. With greater growth in the SAS/LED sector than any other part of the medical workforce there is a need to think how think about the totality of the medical workforce. Flexibility, recruitment to hard to staff areas, the function of assessment and exams and the potential for commonality across the first five years of postgraduate training for all doctors were issues across the Statutory Education Bodies. Wendy urged colleges to continue to engage in conversations about the diversification of the medical workforce, promote the profile and value of education and speak with one voice on promoting education reform.

ICS Three months in - how are they doing?

Julie Das-Thompson and Julia Grace from NHS England together with Dr Priya Singh, Chair of Frimley ICB, and Dr Frankie Swords Medical Director of Norfolk and Waveney ICS, spoke about their experience of how ICS are developing three months in. Both Priya and Frankie stressed the essential importance of clinical involvement and leadership building on the excellent NHS guidance [Clinical and Care Professional Leadership Guidance](#) and also of ensuring quality as guiding principle for ICS.

The changing relationship between professionals and their membership organisations – What does it mean for colleges?

Julian Smith, Executive Director of memcom, spoke about the changing nature of membership of professional bodies across sectors. The relationship of a professional to their professional body has changed and with it the expectation of members. Lifelong membership out of any sense of obligation no longer exists and moving in and out of membership is now common. Members recognised the experience from other sectors. Whilst College membership is broadly steady this may mask differences across members and ages. The need for really good data and understanding of differing members' needs was stressed as well as identifying what are the unique offerings that can be provided. It was agreed to explore these issues in more depth opening up the discussion to CEO and membership officers.

Policy Priorities and work programme

The Council considered the Academy's policy priorities for the coming year under the main themes of the previous year – workforce, education and training, system improvement and Tomorrow's NHS.

Members will send in any specific comments on the document to the Academy. A brief summary document setting out the policy priorities will be produced for members.

Members Meeting

The Policy Day also incorporates the Annual Members Meeting where the Board presents the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts. This was first Annual Meeting for the new Board Chair, Professor Andrew Eder. The Academy accounts have been agreed by our external auditors and been adopted by the Board. They are in a healthy state. The more informal Academy Annual Review was also officially launched.