

ACADEMY COUNCIL MEETING – 15 May 2012

Summary of key issues

Welcome

John Crowe, President of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, was welcomed to his first meeting.

Council elections

Terence Stephenson was congratulated on his election as Chairman of the Academy. He will take up office after the next Council meeting in July when Sir Neil Douglas demits office as Chairman. The Academy will also be seeking nominations for two vice-chairs to take office from July and September.

NHS and Social Care Act – Education issues

It was noted that Sir Keith Pearson had been appointed as Chair of HEE and that the HEE CEO post had been advertised. Authorisation criteria for LETBs are due out for consultation by end June 2012.

Clinical commissioning

It was noted that the Academy proposal for a pan-College Commissioning Support Centre was being developed but that a definitive position from the DH on associated resourcing for Colleges and the Academy was required. A proposals paper will be distributed when there is greater clarity on this issue.

The Council also noted that the DH guidance still states that secondary care clinician representation on a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) cannot be from an organisation that secures significant services from the CCG. The Council remained of the view that will significantly restrict the effectiveness of this role on CCG Boards.

Colleges will consider whether they might wish to be involved in identifying suitable secondary care clinicians to be candidates to be on CCG Boards.

DH ‘Three Million Lives’ tele-health campaign

The Council noted the DH programme on the development of remote tele-health and will maintain involvement as the campaign develops.

SPAs

The Council considered a request from the BMA (via the RCoA) for more detailed guidance on the amount of SPA required for revalidation. It was agreed that Dr Tony Falconer and the revalidation team would review the current Academy guidance on SPAs in light of the revalidation pilot experience and research from RCPE.

Privatisation of community services

The Council discussed the sense of concern arising from privatised community services, particularly with regard to complex, non-routine cases. It was noted that privatisation of community care has been happening for some time and that differentiation should be drawn between concern over the principle and concern over specific organisations. It was agreed that Iona Heath, Prof. Sue Bailey and Sol Mead would progress development of an Academy position statement.

Revalidation

The Council agreed the Specialty Guidance core framework and Colleges agreed to promote its usage. The publication of the Academy guidance on Return to Practice was also noted and received general support. This guidance is intended to be supportive of doctors in identifying any assistance that they might find helpful in returning to work.

Sponsorship and clinician interaction with vested interests

The Council agreed to explore the scope and the potential need for cross-College principles on sponsorship and dealing with vested business interests (e.g. pharmaceuticals, devices, private health care providers).

Union Europeenne des Medecins Specialistes (UEMS)

The Council noted the UEMS was now running well and discussed concerns about the harmonisation of curricula across Europe, emphasising the need to ensure UK standards are used as a basis. The Council also noted that agreement to changes to the Working Time Directive was unlikely to happen in the near future.

Faculty of Medical Management and Leadership Training

The significant growth rate of membership of the FMML was noted with pleasure, with numbers now at over 1500. The Council supported development of a training package proposal aimed at College Presidents and senior office holders.

Payment of Colleges for education work

The Council discussed in broad terms where responsibility for funding work on education and training should lie - particularly what responsibilities the GMC should have in terms of supporting College work.

Meeting with Prof. David Sowden (Director MEE)

Following the formal meeting the Council met with Professor David Sowden, Director Medical Education England. Issues discussed included: timetable and pressures relating to establishing Health Education England; constitution and authorisation of LETBs; Shape of Training progress; making the continuum of medical education a reality; Better Training Better Care progress and non-UK doctors eligibility for entry to Foundation One level roles.