

ACADEMY MEETING – 19 MAY 2011

Summary of key issues

Listening exercise meeting with the Secretary of State

The formal Academy meeting was preceded by a meeting with the Secretary of State for Health, Andrew Lansley which was part of the “Listening Exercise” being conducted around the NHS Bill.

The Secretary of State was accompanied by Sir Bruce Keogh, NHS Medical Director, Julie Moore, CE Birmingham University Hospitals Trust, Chair Education and Training work stream and Dr Kathy McLean, Medical Director NHS East Midlands, Chair Clinical Engagement work stream.

The Academy said that it supported a number of the proposals in “*Liberating the NHS*” but there were areas of real concern where the Academy believed that the proposals could seriously undermine the ability of the NHS to deliver comprehensive, co-ordinated care. The areas of concern were

- The implications of increased **competition**
- Delivering effective **clinical commissioning**
- **Education and training**
- **Patient involvement**
- The **Public Health** proposals
- Delivering major change whilst making substantial **efficiency savings**

A full note of this meeting has been circulated to Colleges and is on the Academy website.

NHS and Social Care Bill

Whilst most of the discussion on the NHS Bill took place during the meeting with the Secretary of State, the Academy did subsequently agree to undertake work with the RCGP, Colleges and Health Foundation on how clinical commissioning would work. It was also agreed to pursue the possibility of a duty to support work on behalf of the wider NHS being included in the Bill.

Medical Education Indicators

The Academy considered the paper on indicators for the quality of medical education produced by MEE. Whilst the Academy was fully supportive of the concept of developing education metrics it did express disappointment that those proposed were not more robust.

Colleges were asked to send any comments or their submissions to the Academy by 13 June particularly on preferred national indicators.

Healthcare Scientists Consensus statement

The Academy decided not to support a proposed consensus statement on the role of healthcare scientists because of possible confusion over the use of the term “consultant”. It was agreed to ask the Academy Patient Liaison Group for their view on the use of term amongst different clinical groups.

Telemedicine

The Academy noted that discussions had been held with the GMC and CQC about effective regulation of doctors practising telemedicine from overseas. It was agreed to continue to press the GMC and CQC to take a pro-active position and to raise the issue with the Department of Health and Health Select Committee.

GMC Statement on Exams

It was noted that the GMC had asked the Academy to develop a consensus position on the issue of the number of examination attempts that should be permitted and it was expected to complete this by the end of the year.

Trainee Statement

The Academy agreed to endorse Academy Trainee Doctors Group statement on the principles to guide postgraduate medical education (available on the website).

NICE Clinical standards

It was noted that responses from Colleges on prioritisation of items for NICE clinical standards was being collated for submission to the Department of Health.

UEMS (European Union of Medical Specialists)

The Academy received a report from John Black on the last UEMS meeting noting that any harmonisation of EU standard would not necessarily be an improvement in UK standards.

The Academy agreed that John Black’s role as the Academy UEMS representative would be filled by Sue Bailey, incoming President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Medical Training Initiative

It was reported that the Home Office consultation on possible changes to Tier 5 immigration rules, and hence the MTI, would begin at the end of May. The Academy would be producing a briefing for Colleges.

Guidelines on the diagnosis of brainstem death in infants and children

It was agreed to ask RCPCH to lead work on revision of the Academy guidance involving other Colleges as appropriate.

Conference on the Future Direction of the NHS

The Academy agreed in principle to support a proposal from the RCGP to for conference to set out the clinical vision for the NHS over the next decades. A small working group will look at the feasibility and report back to the Academy.