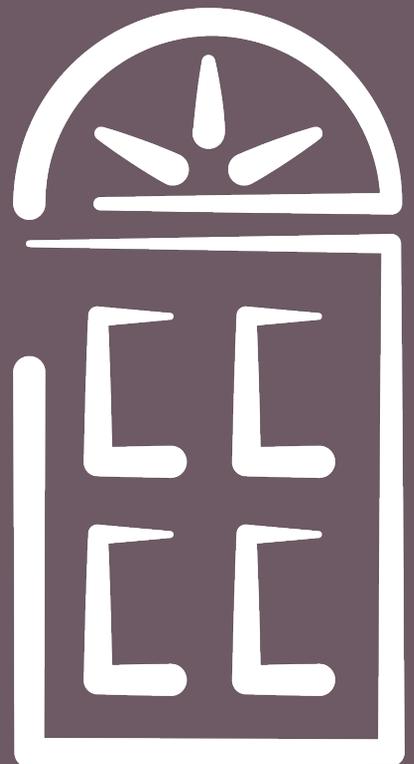

Academy Policy Priorities 2020-21

Activity during the year





The Academy's policy priorities are agreed and set in September by the Council at its annual Policy Day. At the 2020 Policy Day the previous priorities were revised fairly extensively, and the Council agreed the following for 2021:

- **Workforce** – Seeking to ensure we have the appropriate workforce, in the right numbers, properly supported and valued
- **Education and Training** – Supporting Colleges in maintaining excellence in medical education and training to ensure the highest quality delivery of care
- **System improvement (i.e. Today's NHS)** – Seeking to improve the operational efficiency and effectiveness of the NHS for the benefit of patients and staff
- **Rethinking Medicine and ensuring a sustainable future NHS (i.e. Tomorrow's NHS)** – Seeking to help reshape the future delivery of health and care to provide person-centred equitable services in the future for the whole population

The activities under these four themes break down into three categories,

- Projects initiated and managed by the Academy led work
- Projects in which we are fully involved but are led by external organisations
- Initiatives to which we respond and input on a reactive basis, as and when required.

There is little doubt that responding to the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted all the best laid work programmes, and this was no exception for the Academy. However, work did progress in many of policy priority areas.

Workforce

Any workforce strategy requires three elements. One, ensuring continued workforce supply. Two, looking at new ways of working through use of technology, new roles and skill mix, and three, supporting and valuing staff to ensure good staff engagement and retention.

Progress was made in all these areas. In terms of supply we produced joint statements with external organisations on the need for increased long-term investment in staffing culminating in a jointly sponsored amendments to the Health and Care Bill on workforce planning as well as our international recruitment work as sponsors of the MTI scheme.

We explored new ways of working by building on last year's report about professional identity in multi-professional teams, this time looking at how COVID-19 has changed things again, this will be published in October 2021. We've also supported staff-well being with our Support for Doctors resources as well as the work of the Trainee and SAS doctors' groups.

Education and training

Education and training is at the core of what Colleges and Faculties do and is therefore central to the Academy's activity. Unsurprisingly much of activity focussed on education and training in the context of COVID-19.

Colleges had to respond to provision of education and exams remotely and the Academy focussed on coordinating activity between Colleges and Faculties, the GMC and statutory education bodies.

Elsewhere, work continued on the flexibility in training and during the year we completed the revision of the Foundation curriculum.

System improvement

Much of the System Improvement work had a focus on COVID-19 ensuring Academy input to decisions on management of COVID-19 and restoration of NHS services. But our work taking on the Evidence Based Interventions (EBI) programme was an important development as was the production of the NHS Patient Safety Syllabus for NHSEI/HEE. We continued to push for action on Social Care through the Health for Care Coalition and the Future Social Care Coalition.

Tomorrow's NHS

This area probably did not have the attention it deserved because of the pressures of the pandemic. However, we developed our Rethinking Medicine work which can hopefully progress in the coming year. We were active on the issue of genomics with excellent work down by the College Genomics Leads Group and our Clinical Associate.
