

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS
NORTHERN IRELAND COUNCIL**

**Council Committee Meeting Monday 24th September 2007 Radisson SAS Hotel, Belfast
Minutes of Meeting**

Attended By: Drs McAughey, Doran, Jack, Scott, Johnston, McKnight,
Kennedy, Rea
Prof Brown, Dobbs
Mrs AM Murray

Staff in attendance Dr Val Fiddis,
Miss Nuala Foley, Rebecca Black
Mrs Lindsay Wallace

Apologies: Drs Dorman, Smith, Mulholland, Sweeney, Norton, McKenna
Prof. Haslam, Lakhani, Field, Reilly
Mr Newman, Archer

Agenda Items

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of meeting of 21st May 2007 were circulated to all members and approved.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes

- ✚ It was asked if we have come any further with the Political Issues.
- ✚ Dr Doran was at a meeting approx 3 weeks ago in Storming regarding Primary Care. It was very well represented by RGCP and RCN.
- ✚ The MLA's present at the meeting were looking for a body to provide them with information. After consultation with the RCGP NI office, Dr Doran wrote to them for a follow up shortly afterwards to say that RCGP are happy to meet with them.
- ✚ The Chambre Public Affairs were to have the political briefing papers ready for the meeting but due to a heavy workload these will not be ready until Thursday 27th September.
- ✚ It was decided, since the May meeting, that the "Health Inequalities and General Practice in areas of Deprivation on the island of Ireland" – joint report with ICGP, will not be launched.

4 Chairman's Report

- ✚ Dr McAughey reported on meetings attended since the last council meeting – May 2007.
- ✚ Dr McAughey has attended a meeting regarding post-graduate training with Dr Kennedy. Dr Kennedy gives a report on this;

- # Due to the new curriculum and exam there has been concern regarding post-graduate training. There has been discussion on how RCGP can help delivery of this but it is proving difficult to find a way “fit-for-all”.
- # The College and NIMDTA are to work together to facilitate this while it is still new.
- # The Committee on this also consider feedback from the RCGP/GPC NI joint committee.
- # There are also questions regarding RCGP funding and resourcing for AiTs and if there will be central funding for trainers.
- # There is to be a “Deanery” panel set up to sign off AiT certification from work place based assessment and proof through E-portfolio.
- # The “Deanery” will be especially important in the quality assurance of this process.
- # It is noted that RCGP are putting together a very useful and comprehensive package for AiTs.
- # Dr Rea was asked if, as a current user of e-portfolio, if there is anything she thinks may help. It is noted that more support on the learning log part of e-portfolio would be a great help.

5 Chair-Elect Report – Dr David Johnston

- # Dr Johnston attended further meetings of the Governance Group.
- # The Governance Group and the Department want to be more quality assured; this is being debated at present.
- # Medical Advisors have tried to make the system more reasonable, with one strand of Governance.
- # Within the Department there are numerous strands of Governance, but they do not seem to communicate with each other, this needs rectified.
- # Dr Johnston reports that there has been an Out of Hours Regional Strategy set up.
- # It is noted that Northern Ireland are on a par with Scotland and have to cut down their spending on the above service by £3million.
- # It is proposed that the Out of Hours service will be then replaced with an NHS 24hr direct service which will cost £8 million.
- # This is yet to be approved.
- # It was discussed that maybe RCGP NI should add the case for Out of Hours to their political debate due to the fact that in terms of quality and economics closing Out of Hours and opening NHS 24 does not add up.
- # It was felt that NHS 24 would only provide people with information but that for proper care patients would need to go to A&E or their GP anyway.
- # It was felt that a better view would be for GPs and other medical services to work better together and more flexibly.
- # It was decided that Dr Fiddis would speak to Terry Merlin this week in regards to putting the case forward for extended opening hours in Crop’s political papers.
- # Dr Jack asked if Out of Hours was happening across the border. It was confirmed that there are pilots happening cross-border.
- # It was asked if there was any talk of linking Clinical Governance with Practice Accreditation. It was confirmed that there is but it is with a view to 1 system

doing GP Practices and Hospitals. It was felt that these are two very different things.

6 Reports from Reps on Committees

- # These were circulated by Miss Black at the meeting, only one report from Chris Hall.
- # Miss Black is to email Dr Hall and thank him for his time and effort in attending the meetings and preparing his report.
- # Prof Dobbs was asked if there was any progress on NIPCARD but there has not been much happening.
- # There are difficulties surrounding funding of R&D in N. Ireland.
- # Prof. Brown is to liaise with Prof. Dobbs and Prof. Reilly on this matter.

7 Update on Revalidation/Re-certification

- # There has been a steering group set up within RCGP with Prof Lakani as Chair.
- # The many varied principles of re-certification have now been agreed, as well as the four main pillars.
- # It was felt that appraisal and clinical governance should be considered when re-certifying.
- # Things will be clearer by 2008 with pilots hopefully happening in 2009, but the programme will not be implemented until at least 2010.
- # The next meeting of the group is in November 2007.

8 PiP Group Establishment Update

- # An Advert was placed to recruit for this group in mid-August.
- # There has been a good response to the advert resulting in 11 applicants for the lay person and 1 applicant for the GP post on the committee.
- # The GP applicant is Dr Chris Hall. RCGP NI Council are asked for their approval of Dr Hall. A unanimous “yes”.
- # Miss Foley and Mrs Murray are currently short-listing for the lay position.
- # Miss Foley informs the council that the standard of applicants is high and that at least 6 people will be interviewed; no definite date has yet been set for the interviews.
- # Mrs Murray informs the council that a good leaflet has been produced on the PiP group and this will be on display at the RCGP NI stand at the Annual Conference, next week.
- # Miss Foley informed council that the PiP group will be well under way by April 2008.

9 2007 NI Events

- # Mrs Wallace gave a report on the current events being held by RCGP NI.
- # There are currently 39 people interested (and confirmed) in the Drugs Misuse in Primary Care Programme. Part I is to be held in January 2008 and Part II in March 2008.
- # There are currently 6 delegates for the “Changing Face of General Practice” event.

- # RCGP NI will also be running a “Trauma Related Disorders” event.
- # The places for the Awards Ceremony are booking up quite quickly.
- # RCGP NI are now in the double figures with the Patient Nominations and there is still one and a half weeks to go to the closing date – 3rd October 2007.
- # The next meeting for members interested in Fellowship is 18th October 2007.
- # From August- September 2007 the membership numbers for NI have grown by 9.3% to 985 members, representing 90% of GPs in Northern Ireland.

10 Primary Care Pandemic Flu Project

- # Dr Doran gave a report on meetings held since the last council meeting. There have been two.
- # At the first meeting it was noted that the Eastern Board have drawn up a Primary Care based plan. This incorporates a “Flu-buddy”, meaning that neighbouring practices will help each other out.
- # There were Pharmacists representatives at the meeting; they are nowhere near completing their plan.
- # A review meeting was held last week.
- # To date 40% of practices have not returned their plans despite having visits and being shown how to complete the plan.
- # There was also a meeting of all health boards who decided that an NHS 24 hour phone line will be set up which will give a number to patients for them to take to their Pharmacist to get Tamiflu.
- # Pharmacists do not want to be on the front line here and can have no training as they are unsure yet what they will be doing.
- # There will be another meeting of the group in January 2008; it is still believed that this pandemic will happen.
- # Income Protection has been agreed for GPs.

11 Occupational Health Working Group

- # Dr Doran informed the Council that it has been decided that this group will have virtual meetings via email.
- # A press office release by Delia Skan in relation to health at work was circulated.
- # It is felt that time off work is detrimental to health and states that GPs are re-considering signing people off on sick leave.
- # It was felt by council that this has always been the case.

12 ROI Faculty Update

- # Dr Jack started by informing council of the resounding success of the Reception training programme in Cork and that a future date has been agreed.
- # Dr Jack circulated information on a 1 day Ethics Workshop with Dr Kay Mohanna RCGP ROI is holding, 13th October 2007.
- # Information on the RCGP ROI winter meeting, 7th December 2007, was also circulated.
- # Dr Jack informed the council that ROI doctors are having problems with the applications for Fellowship in that the requirements are not the same as the qualifications/skills in ROI.

- ✚ RCGP ROI is in negotiations to rectify this problem.

13 NI Quality Programme update

- ✚ Report by Miss Foley;
- ✚ There have been no new practices for Practice Accreditation.
- ✚ There has been one practice for QPA, Riverside (Strabane), this is a re-accreditation.
- ✚ There is a Quality Assessor training day being held 18th October in Templepatrick for GP and nurse assessors.
- ✚ This will also act as a refresher course for current assessors.
- ✚ Miss Foley informs that Council that GPs are badly needed.
- ✚ The day will be delivered by Dr Ken McClean who will be assisted by Dr McAughey and Dr John O'Kelly.
- ✚ This means that in future Drs McAughey and O'Kelly can deliver the training, cutting down on costs to NI office.
- ✚ This training will then be consistent with the rest of the UK so that assessors can be used from different parts of the country.
- ✚ There have been two applicants for the Quality Practice Award;
 - Abbey Medical Practice, Derry
 - Ballyclare Group Practice

14 NI Primary Care Support Staff Training Update

- ✚ Dr McAughey started by thanking the officers of the RCGP NI office for this programme, especially Dr Fiddis.
- ✚ Dr Fiddis circulated a report on training given and up and coming training, including informing the Council that the programme may go international.

15 UK Council Update

- ✚ Prof Brown attending UK Council on behalf of RCGP NI.
- ✚ He gave council a Finance update;
 - Budget papers were circulated and passed as there were no concerns. This is due largely to the increase in members
- ✚ The sale of Prince's Gate has been suspended. They will not be looking at a purchase until a new site for RCGP Head Office has been secured.
- ✚ They are looking at Paddington area.
- ✚ Prof. Field proposed his two vice chairs – Dr Has Joshi and Dr Clare Jerada.
- ✚ Both were approved.
- ✚ It was decided that as of November 2010 vice chairs will be elected and not nominated.
- ✚ There has been a Nominations Committee set up to encourage talents to stand up for posts.
- ✚ The AGM is 16th November in Victoria Park Plaza Hotel.

16 AGM Arrangements

- ✚ This is to be held 12th November 07 at 7.30pm, prior to next Council meeting.
- ✚ Dr Fiddis circulated papers for the AGM and the names of people due for election.
- ✚ All papers are to be circulated to all members and they are given a chance to nominate.

17 Communication/Correspondence Received.

- ✚ Dr McAughey has been invited to the Bamford Review seminar 10th October 2007. Due to work commitments Dr McAughey cannot attend and so asked if anyone else would like to go.
- ✚ Dr McAughey informed the council of the RCGP/GPC joint meeting 4th September 2007. She reported that it is very up in the air about how things will progress on the RPA front.

18 Any other Business

- ✚ Dates of the 2008 council meetings and AGM were agreed;
 - 11th February 2008
 - 19th May 2008
 - 15th September 2008
 - 10th November 2008 (this is AGM as well)
- ✚ As this was Dr McAughey's last meeting as Chairperson of NI Council, Prof Brown took this opportunity to thank Dr McAughey, on behalf of the council, for all her hard work, dedication and valuable contributions to RCGP NI and to the Council over the past three years. We wish her all the best for the future.

19 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 12th November 2007

Radisson SAS Hotel, Gasworks, Ormeau Road, Belfast