



Royal College of
General Practitioners

Dr Ken Lawton FRCGP
Chair of Scottish Council

To: Faculty Honorary Secretaries
cc: Faculty Chairs
Members of Scottish Council

12 June 2009

Dear Colleague

3rd Meeting of 56th Scottish Council – Saturday 6 June 2009

It is my pleasure to write to you with a summary of discussions from the above meeting held on 6 June 2009.

Members discussed issues relating to the recent outbreak of Influenza A(H1N1) and **Pandemic Flu Planning**. Dr Ken Lawton informed members of RCGP actions across the UK in relation to the outbreak. Members noted and thanked Dr Mairi Scott for her work on the Scottish Government's pandemic flu planning document, which took place whilst she was Chair of RCGP Scotland.

Members stressed the importance of remaining alert on the issue of Influenza A(H1N1) and it was noted that the World Health Organisation's pandemic phase level was likely to be raised from Level 5 to Level 6 at some point in the near future [*NOTE: Further to the meeting we would like to note that WHO raised the pandemic alert level to Level 6 on 11th June 2009*]. Members noted the likelihood of an autumn resurgence of the virus and agreed proposals for a joint letter from RCGP Scotland and the BMA to go out via the Scottish Government.

Following this discussion, members received an update on the **Quality Practice Award** and were informed that management and administration for QPA for England and Wales has now been transferred to Scotland. Issues relating to the **Quality Outcomes Framework** were then discussed and it was noted that Dr Colin Hunter, has been appointed as Chair of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence's group for QOF. Following further discussion on the Quality Outcomes Framework it was agreed that Dr Ken Lawton would write to Dr Hunter, congratulating him on the new role and to also highlight the concerns of members regarding the issue of clinical indicators.

Dr Peter Cawston, Executive Officer (Patients and Public), gave an update on **Patient Partnership in Practice (P3)**, specifically in relation to recent activities on **Rape and**

Sexual Abuse: GP Guidance. Dr Cawston directed the attention of members to the draft Rape and Sexual Abuse guidance leaflets which were tabled at the meeting. Following a call for comments members commended the drafts and agreed to submit any specific comments on content via email following the meeting. Ian Melville, Vice Chair, was invited to update members on the feedback received from the **'Make the Connections: The Value of Involving Your Patients'** workshop held 11th March 2009. Members heard that the day was extremely successful, featuring a range of delegates from both healthcare related and patient backgrounds.

Members received an update from Dr Ken Lawton on actions relating to the **Review of Nursing in the Community** including background information on the letter which was sent from Dr Ken Lawton to Nicola Sturgeon dated 22nd May 2009 and which was circulated with the papers for the meeting. Members provided further updates on the impact of RONiC in their faculty areas and Dr Peter Cawston was invited to provide an update on the petition raised against the **Glasgow Health Visitors Review**. Dr Cawston informed members that the Petitions Committee had held a further meeting where it was decided that the petitions raised against the Glasgow Health Visitor's Review (PE1198-1200) can be closed.

Dr Phil Cotton provided an update on the issue of **Health Inequalities**, following the recent meeting of the Health Inequalities Short Life Working Group, hosted by the West of Scotland Faculty on 11th May 2009. The possibility of hosting a national health inequalities meeting was discussed at this with the aim of engaging with the 'Top 100 Deprived Practices in Scotland'. Members duly approved the proposals for this event to be held in the Autumn.

Members were informed by Professor Lewis Ritchie that the **Scottish Academic Forum's** report 'Securing the Future' was extremely close to publication, with a distribution list for the finalised version currently being drafted. Following this update, Dr Ken Lawton highlighted the results of the **GP Access Survey** and members were informed that RCGP Scotland had held a meeting with Elizabeth Ireland regarding the specifics of the survey which need to be improved. Concerns were raised at the meeting related to patient perception and response rates, particularly in deprived areas. As a result of this, Dr Lawton agreed to liaise with Nadine Harrison from the Primary Care Division on this issue to obtain a breakdown on response data.

Dr Lawton issued thanks to those who had submitted responses to the discussion document on **'The Future of General Practice in Scotland: The Way Ahead'** members approved the final draft subject to the deadline for final comments to be extended to the 10th June 2009. Copies of the final RCGP Scotland response are now available on request and will shortly be displayed on the RCGP Scotland website. Dr Lawton discussed actions arising from the meeting held between the SGPC and RCGP Scotland on 4th June to discuss next steps in relation to the discussion paper and consultation and members agreed for RCGP Scotland to continue to engage with the BMA on this issue. In addition the notes and proposed actions resulting from the meeting of the RCGP Scotland sub-group on 'The Way Ahead' (held on 29th April 2009) were also approved by members, including the proposals for RCGP Scotland to draft a companion document to 'The Way Ahead as an RCGP Scotland 'vision document' which would include issues such as quality, training and education.

Dr Ken Lawton invited members to ratify the nomination submitted by Dr Colin Hunter and Dr Jim Rodger for **The Alastair Donald Award**. After reviewing the nomination form, members of Scottish Council formally ratified Dr Tricia Donald as the first awardee of the Alastair Donald Award. Members then received an update on actions relating to

the **RCGP Scotland Awards Gala: Celebrating the Best of General Practice in Scotland** to be held in Edinburgh on 5th December. Ruth Wallace informed that members that ticket price will be £40 *with a 10% discount for faculty staff and faculty board members.*

A verbal update on current activities relating to **Revalidation** was given by Dr Ken Lawton. Following this update members were informed that the **General Practice Foundation** paper would be put to RCGP Council on 13th June for approval and that, following its approval, the Foundation would be launched at the RCGP National Conference in November. Members then discussed the **RCGP Annual National Primary Care Conference**. It was noted that the New Members' Ceremony will now be held on the Saturday afternoon and not the Wednesday as per usual. Members were informed that RCGP Scotland has had a large degree of input into the conference. Members were encouraged to attend the event and to promote it to colleagues. Information on early bird offers, etc. would be emailed round for information. In relation to **Modernising Medical Careers – RCGP Curriculum** Dr Lawton updated members on Dr Kenny Allen's paper looking at the scope for extended GP training.

Ruth Wallace updated Scottish Council on the **Living Better Initiative** following the Scottish Government Review Meeting and following this, an update was received on the proposal for the **Amendment to Scottish Council Byelaws – Associates in Training** where members were informed that the Devolved Councils are currently working together to produce a proposal which is planned to go to the July meeting of Council Executive Committee for approval. A further update was received on the **Gender Based Violence Action Plan (CEL41)** from Dr Peter Cawston on the meeting held with Katie Cosgrove to discuss implications of the CEL. Members approved the RCGP Scotland statement which was formulated as a result of the meeting. It was agreed to let Dr Malcolm Campbell have final approval on the statement before further action is taken.

An update was received on actions related to recruitment for the RCGP Scotland **Executive Board** and members formally ratified Dr Jane Bruce as Executive Officer (Membership) and Dr Sally Al-Agilly as Executive Officer (Professional Development).

I hope you find this summary useful. If you have any queries or would like any further information, please let me know or contact Paul Alexander on palexander@rcgp-scotland.org.uk.

The next meeting of Scottish Council will be held on **Friday 4th September commencing at 2pm, in 25 Queen Street, Edinburgh.**

Yours sincerely



Dr Ken Lawton
Chair of Scottish Council

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