Dear Colleague,

The Assembly is in recess and schools are on holiday which feels wonderfully long for the children and perhaps just a little bit too long for the parents! It is summer holiday season. Yet, at RCGP the meetings keep coming and I wanted to use this week’s blog to update you on some of the most recent. We have been discussing GP related matters at both ends of the age spectrum with two really useful meetings with Professor Sally Holland, Children’s Commissioner, and Heléna Herklots, Older People’s Commissioner. Among the topics discussed with Sally were GP care for children with learning disabilities, ensuring there is no gap in care for 16 and 17-year olds as they move from paediatric to adult health care, and how children’s concerns and ideas could be fed into a consultation on the way in which they engage with GPs and multi-disciplinary teams. With Heléna, we talked about the Commissioner’s current consultation on older people’s ability to access transport to healthcare, multi-disciplinary teams and a possible joint forum on GP care for older people. Internally, there has been a lot going on too. You’ll remember the excellent Fit for the Future Report which Professor Stokes-Lampard launched at Parliament in May; the next stage of the work set in motion from that report is well underway through policy road-mapping sessions on the use of technology in general practice and development of a workforce strategy. While these are led by the College in London, there is plenty of Welsh input from both officers and staff. Peter took part in the technology workshop on Monday and I joined in on the workforce meeting on Wednesday. The challenge of producing deliverable plans in a short period of time is significant and I was really impressed by the effort being put in on GPs’ behalf.

Speak to you soon,

Best wishes

Mair

Dr Mair Hopkin
Joint Chair, RCGP Wales