



Briefing from meeting on 11 May 2011

The meeting was chaired by Diana Kloss and the following items discussed:

- **Funding for Council**

The Council discussed the options for sustainability into the future. Members agreed that, in order to survive, the Council must set itself up as an independent organisation (such as a charity); identify activity which would be of value to members; employ a high level administrator or project manager to drive it forward; and employ qualified financial support to manage income and expenditure. This would require considerable commitment from member organisations but all agreed that the Council could provide a unique contribution and that it should strive to continue.

It was agreed to set up a small working party to develop a vision/strategy for the future, together with a business plan with identified activity and outcomes.

- **Guidance on communication with GPs**

The draft documents were discussed and some further comments noted. Diana Kloss had discussed the project with Nerys Williams, Medical Policy Advisor at DWP, who wished to review and comment on the documents. Sarah Higham (from Federation of Small Businesses) had offered to trial the procedure with some of their members. Dame Carol Black also suggested that they could be trialled with SMEs involved in the Responsibility Deal.

- **OH nurse training**

Helen Kirk put forward a proposal to survey OH nurse on the NMC's proposal to replace part 3 of the Register with advanced nurse practitioner grades. It was agreed that this was a useful exercise. However, ANP status did not provide an OH specific qualification, which was the key issue.

Dame Carol Black and David Coggon had written to the NMC to support the need for improved training. It was also agreed to seek the support of HSE.

- **OH training for occupational therapists and physiotherapists**

A sub group was currently developing a framework to map the skills and knowledge required for other professionals working in occupational health. Nicola Hunter had provided a written update on progress which had been circulated but expressed some concern that this might not be specific enough to develop and improve training programmes. It was agreed to review this and identify further action at the May meeting.

- **Liberating the NHS – developing the healthcare workforce**

Henry Goodall had written a paper on OH Specialist Training and the Demographics of the Current OH Workforce, which built on the FOM consultation response on the White Paper, 'Liberating the NHS – developing the healthcare workforce'. A copy is available for information.

Council members discussed the paper and agreed that changes in the way OH (and healthcare generally) are delivered are inevitable. It was felt that the Council could usefully develop a paper which built on the FOM report but covered all OH professionals. This would be considered by the working group on Council strategy and business plan.

- **Report on Roundtable event on Health, Work and Welfare Reform in London**

Nicola Hunter had circulated a report and slides from this event which she had attended on behalf of the Council. A follow up event was scheduled for October and it was suggested that Nicola and Andrew Frank (to represent rehabilitation professionals) should be put forward as Council representatives.

The next Council meeting was scheduled for 28 September 2011.