



Briefing from meeting on 28 September 2011

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

- **Council strategy and business plan**

The working group reported on progress with the development of a strategy/vision and business plan to ensure the sustainability of the Council. A paper on funding options was tabled and discussed.

It was agreed that the first step was to establish the Council as a legal entity so that it could seek funding from other organisations. The working group would reconvene to review the process for charitable status/company limited by guarantee and progress the preferred option. Olivia Carlton offered support from the FOM (subject to Executive approval) and the Council gave the working group authority to act on behalf of all members.

- **Guidance on communication with GPs**

Diana Kloss had received comments from Nerys Williams, Medical Policy Adviser at DWP, on the draft procedure. Dr Williams made some suggested amendments and recommended that further consultation with the BMA and RCGPs should be undertaken to ensure that the procedure would be supported by them.

- **OH nurse training**

Helen Kirk reported on the preliminary findings from her survey of OH nurse on the NMC's proposal to replace part 3 of the Register with advanced nurse practitioner grades. There had been a very high response rate, which made the results significant and would help to put pressure on the NMC to develop OH specific qualifications. It was agreed that Helen would write up the final report once survey is closed and circulate to the Council, before sharing with the NMC and wider publication.

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

Nicola Hunter presented two documents: on training for AHPs in OH and a framework of behaviours/skills which are specific to OH practice.

The training paper had been produced last year but updated to include ergonomists. It paralleled the paper on nurse training produced by the Council.

The framework paper identified the generic behaviour, knowledge and skills required for AHPs working in OH at increasing levels of competence. As such, it was agreed that it would be very useful to HEIs in developing training programmes but would require more detail and practical application to develop a practice framework that reflected the roles of AHPs (to provide information to other professionals on the scope of each role) and could be used as a reference document for job descriptions.

The Council endorsed the documents and agreed the following actions:

- To share the competence framework with OH nurse educators
 - To develop the framework into a practice document, which should go out for consultation (including HR and management) with a short summary setting out the journey to date.
 - IOSH also offered to carry out a survey of employers to identify what information they would wish to see.
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- **SOM consultation for proposed OH qualifications for new membership categories**

Henry Goodall explained that the SOM had voted to open its membership to other OH professionals and were consulting on the qualifications which would be required for each group to make them eligible. The new arrangements would be launched in October and new members could join from January. Council members were invited to comment.

The next Council meeting was scheduled for 8 February 2011.