



Briefing from Council meeting held on 7 February 2018

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

Occupational Health Workforce project

It was noted that this group had produced two reports and were now hoping to proceed to the third report. However, an HWU and Government Command Paper had been issued to look at the OH workforce.

Steve Boorman (SB) reported that he had met John Harrison to discuss the project and the Improving Lives Command Paper which was looking at how occupational health is delivered. To move the project forward, the HWU are setting up an Expert Stakeholder Group. SB stressed that the Council would be the well placed to deliver that advice. SB agreed to inform the HWU that the Council was keen to support them and all agreed.

HWU Opportunity to develop proposals on 'Reasonable Adjustment'

SB reported that he and DK had held discussions with the Programme Lead at the HWU. The HWU are setting up a project to consider the awareness and understanding around discussions with patients around reasonable adjustments. The project would not just focus on health care practitioners, but would include employers and employees. However, the key target audience would be healthcare practitioners.

SB felt that the Council was well placed to do this work. The HWU were aiming to cover five common health problems. They planned to have generic guidance, exemplified with case studies of common conditions. With the huge breadth of expertise in the Council, SB recommended that the Council should submit a proposal to the HWU. A proposal would be prepared as soon as possible and circulated to Council for comment.

All agreed the Council should proceed with a proposal.

Communications update and website

Deputy Chair, Tom Stewart (TS) reminded the Council that a proposal to update the Council's website had been received and he was currently looking at the structure of the site and had received preliminary mock ups of certain screens. These needed additional work and then could be shared with Council. He added that this was a good opportunity to re-enforce the Council's brand.

TS thanked Medigold Health and Team Prevent for their contribution to the website project.

Chair succession

At the end of the meeting, DK handed over the chairmanship of the Council for Work and Health to Dr Steve Boorman (SB) stating that she was confident that the Council was in safe hands and would go from strength to strength under his leadership. SB thanked DK for her kind words and hard work, adding that she would be a hard act to follow. He stated that he was looking forward to taking over as Chair and would do all he could to develop the Council and further increase its profile.

Honorary President

The Deputy Chair, Tom Stewart, informed the Council that DK had been appointed Honorary President of the Council for Work and Health, in recognition of her tremendous contribution to the Council during her tenure as Chair. This position had no governance responsibilities.

The next meeting of the Council will take place on 16 May 2018, to include the AGM.