

5. Feedback from other MSC meetings

BH attended a recent 4-country meeting where the participation of patient and user representatives was discussed. This will be particularly important for Scotland and NI where articulation of the benefits of MSC in terms of safety, better regulated service, security etc will be important given the cost implications.

On the issue of safety, WMc mentioned the Joint Statement by DH and the RCCP on employment of clinical physiologists, which has been uploaded to the NHS Employers website. This guidance seeks to promote the employment of those who are on the RCCP register. BH advised that this statement had been circulated to HR representatives from the Trusts but there had been no response. From an employment law perspective MB noted that voluntary registration has no legal standing. The HR reps present indicated that they felt unable to implement the Statement.

JC reported that the 4 Country working group on Extending Professional Regulation had published its findings in July in terms of the overarching principles of extending professional regulation to aspirant groups.

BH advised that the MSC group will publish a high level policy document. It will not specify how the MSC objectives will be implemented thereby allowing NI and the other devolved countries to tailor the policy to suit local needs while still keeping close links with the UK overarching principles.

6. Way Forward –

Briefing for Minister – **ACTION** GA to prepare update for Minister on current position and progress to date.

Formation of working groups –

ACTION - To scope the scientific workforce – GA, MB, WMc, CMcG and GMc to take forward and report to next meeting.

Genetics pilot – **ACTION** CG to liaise with Dave Batty in Scotland. BH to seek decision on funding sought from Department. In England, 26 applicants are competing for 1-2 places on the 3 year programme commencing on 5 October which will result in an MSc. This is an excellent opportunity to pilot the MSC model. Those undergoing the training will be employees so MB emphasised the importance of well developed assessment tools.

Current proposed model for MSC – BH presented the latest slides from DH and undertook to circulate the presentation. **ACTION** – All to email feedback on which parts of the model will work in NI.

7. Education Plan – JO’C, TG and IL to develop education plan to support a local MSC model and report to the next meeting. JC to seek nominee from Education & Training Unit in Department.

8. Agreement on actions

- a) Agreed note of meeting on 4 June to be uploaded to DHSSPS web site.
- b) JC to advise on what exactly the funding of £300k for Clinical scientists trainee salary support funds.
- c) GA to write to Management Side, The Beeches, requesting TUS participation in the Working Group.
- d) GA to prepare briefing for Minister on current position and progress to date.
- e) GA, MB, WMc, CMcG and GMc to scope the scientific workforce and report to next meeting.
- f) CG to liaise with Scotland re genetics pilot.
- g) BH to seek decision on funding from Department for genetics pilot.
- h) JO’C, TG and IL to develop education plan for MSC and report to the next meeting.

- i) JC to seek nominee from Education & Training Unit in Department to work on education plan.
- j) All to email feedback on which parts of the current MSC model will work in NI.

9. AOB CMcG asked for an MSC update to be provided on our web site.
Date of next meeting – Early December 2009 at Castle Buildings.