

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council noted that this is first meeting for Dr Rajeeva Singh (Regional Representative, Yorkshire), and the last meeting for Dr Amanda Goldstein (Officer for Training) who will be succeeded by Dr Peter Dale. Council thanked Dr Goldstein for her hard work for the College.

AUTUMN MEETING DATE

Council noted a change to the autumn meeting date which will now take place on Thursday 27 October 2016 from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Council received and noted a College Update paper and verbal briefing from Professor Judith Ellis, CEO. Council noted an update from Dr Andrew Long, Officer for Education, that the RCPCH Annual Conference 2016 will still be held as planned from 26 April to 28 April despite a clash of dates with the (English) junior doctors industrial action and it is hoped that a resolution is found between junior doctors and the government by then.

FINANCE UPDATE AND 2016/17 BUDGET TIMETABLE

Council received and noted the Finance Update and 2016/17 Budget Timetable paper from Mr David Howley, Director of Corporate Services, Mr Mark Eves, Head of Finance and Dr Lisa Kauffmann, Honorary Treasurer. Council noted that despite the criticisms of the College auditors, Kingston Smith, surrounding their

financial audit of Kids Company, on balance Mr Howley and Dr Lisa Kauffmann, Honorary Treasurer, do not find the criticisms strong enough not to reappoint at the 2016 AGM.

AGM AGENDA AND STANDING ORDERS

Council received, discussed and noted a paper from Professor Judith Ellis, CEO, and Mr Graham Sleight, Head of Governance and Contracts and a verbal briefing from Mr Sleight. Council noted the AGM agenda, Standing Orders and the appointment of Electoral Reform Services to facilitate remote voting by postal proxy in advance of an AGM when required.

MILK FORMULA MOTION

Council received and discussed a paper from Professor Judith Ellis, CEO, and Mr Graham Sleight, Head of Governance and Contracts, and a verbal briefing from Mr Sleight. Council agreed unanimously to oppose the following AGM motion as set out at 1.2 of the document: *"In order for RCPCH as a professional body to avoid institutional conflicts of interest and thus maintain its reputation as an unbiased, independent educator and advocate for child health, the College should decline commercial support from all companies that market products within the scope of the WHO Code on the marketing of breast milk substitutes"*. Council agreed that clarification is required as to the exact wording, accompanying document and evidence of signatures for the motion before making a decision

about circulating a briefing paper prepared by the proposers; Council agreed to circulate a paper outlining the RCPCH position to the membership in advance of the AGM and agreed that it is not appropriate to permit remote voting on this motion.

GOVERNANCE REFORMS AND REMOTE VOTING

Council received, discussed and noted a paper from Professor Judith Ellis, CEO, and Mr Graham Sleight, Head of Governance and Contracts, and verbal briefing from Mr Sleight. Council agreed delegate work on liaising with the Privy Council to the CEO and Head of Governance and Contracts and agreed in principle that, should Privy Council approval for the changes be gained in time, the proposed changes to the governing documents should be considered by the AGM under the “remote voting” mechanism established in 2015.

GOVERNANCE REFORMS COMMUNICATIONS

Council received, noted and discussed a paper and verbal briefing from Ms Emily Arkell, Head of Media and External Affairs (interim) which included the communications plan to support the implementation for the RCPCH’s proposed new governance structures.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Council received and noted a verbal update from Professor Neena Modi, President, including: an update on the current issue of junior doctor contracts in England; the launch of the Children’s Research Capacity Development Fund; recent childhood obesity prevention

activity; updates on global College work; an approach from the European Academy of Paediatrics to work with the RCPCH to develop parts of a written examination for paediatricians across Europe.

THE STATE OF UK HEALTH SERVICES

The Chair welcomed Professor Allyson Pollock and Mr Peter Roderick to the meeting for this item. Council received a verbal background briefing from the Chair and noted that as a charity, the RCPCH cannot be party-political. However as a charity it is within our charitable objectives to campaign, advocate, or make points that relate to the current policies of the day that affect child health and we have an obligation to advocate on behalf of children. Council discussed the item and agreed that the College should work towards a report on the state of UK health services. Council agreed that we must look at what data we can be capturing, including qualitative data, quantitative data and information from our parents and families. Council agreed that we must ask the question: Which way are children’s health services evolving? Council agreed that any report will be carried out on behalf of our beneficiaries – children and young people. Council agreed that we have an obligation as a four nations College to see whether or not differences are emerging in health services between the nations.

Chair: Professor Neena Modi
Next meeting: 7 July 2016