

**BRITISH GERIATRICS SOCIETY  
POLICY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th May 2007 in the Amulree Room, Marjory Warren House, London EC1M 4DN

**Present:** Dr P Belfield, Dr J Birns, Ms S Briggs, Professor P Crome, Dr M Hasan, Mr R Latham, Dr I Lightbody, Dr J Morris (chair) and Dr L Patterson.

**In attendance:** Mrs S Allport and Mr A Mair.

**PC07/14 Linkages**

**Action**

Dr Patterson gave a talk on linkages which covered the types of organisations that we should consider linking with and suggestions as to how we may achieve this. A copy of the presentation is available from the office.

The Committee commented that: -

- We already do some of this but it is not brought together
- It is a rather complicated subject to take forward
- We should take stock of what we are currently doing and how we do it before we seek outside assistance.
- Do we know what message we want to give to new partners?
- Can we speed up the preparation of our responses?
- We should focus on Public and Parliamentary Affairs rather than PR
- We need 4 or 5 generic nationally applicable statements
- Should we see links with Locals Authorities?
- Why are we not contacted by Help the Aged, Age Concern and the NHS Confederation?
- Are we considered too medical and concerned only with Doctor's rather than the public and lay people?

It was decided that a short paper would be produced based on the minutes to enable a future discussion on what our key statements are.

**AM & JM**

**Policy Committee Terms of Reference**

A draft of the revised constitution had been circulated in advance. This was approved with the following amendments:

Item 2.4 should read "The Committee shall elect a Deputy Chair who will serve for a 2 year period. The Deputy Chair will be elected from the members nominated by National Councils. National Council representatives and internal ex-officio members are eligible to vote. The Deputy Chair will usually succeed as Chair.

There should be a non-Doctor representative (internal ex-officio)

Items 3.8 and 3.9 should be merged as one item

In addition it was decided that the business plan should require that the terms of reference are reviewed every two years.

**PC07/15 Welcomes and Apologies**

Apologies were received from: Dr D Beaumont, Dr B Chapman, Dr I Donald, Dr D Forsyth, Professor J Gladman, Dr K Kelleher, Dr D Oliver, Dr M Rea,

Dr J Starr, Dr F Tracey and Dr C Vellodi.

Mrs S Briggs and Mr R Latham were welcomed as our new lay members and Dr J Birns as our new trainee representative.

PC07/16 **The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2007.**

The minutes were signed as an accurate record

PC07/17 **Matters Arising**

(a) *Dignity Campaign Update*

The launch at the House of Lords on 18 April was very successful. 50 guests attended and speeches were made by Baroness's Greengross and Hale, Mr Ivan Lewis MP and Professor Ian Philp.

Since the launch we have received a report from the Cornwall and Isle of Scilly PCT who have used the toolkits environmental audit to assess the toilets in 5 community hospitals. We look forward to hearing how they progress and will see if we can mention the report in the Newsletter.

**Office**

A business plan detailing the next phase of the campaign has been prepared and will be considered by UKMC at their next meeting (24<sup>th</sup> May).

(b) *RCP working party*

The College had decided that our proposal for a working party on palliative care would be better if it was a guideline. They are unable however, to assist with financial or administrative support. Dr Morris has therefore written a business plan for consideration by UKMC at their next meeting (24<sup>th</sup> May).

(c) *Care of Patients with Fragility Fracture*

The Committee approved this new version subject to the corrections identified earlier by e-mail. It was also suggested that as there are numerous acronyms that there should be a glossary. The question of how it was to be disseminated was also raised and Dr Morris agreed to contact Dr Martin with our comments.

**JM**

(d) *Orthogeriatrics paper*

Dr Belfield's compendium paper had been tabled and the committee were asked to take it away for consideration and to e-mail any comments or suggestions to him. We would like to sign off this paper at our October meeting.

(e) *Deputy Chair*

To date there have been no expressions of interest so Dr Belfield agreed to contact the Committee by e-mail with a view to confirming the appointment at our October meeting.

**PB**

(f) *Pain Guidelines*

It was felt that this was an excellent guideline. There were a few comments regarding dementia versus cognitive impairment on pages 16 and 17 so Dr Morris agreed to contact the Guideline group about this.

**JM**

PC07/18 **UKMC Update**

The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated in advance.

PC07/19 **House of Lord's Questions**

**Agenda**

In addition to the questions it was decided that there should be a briefing note with each one and we also need to consider how the Government will respond so that we can have our supplementary questions written in advance. Dr Morris agreed to work on this further.

**JM**

PC07/17 **BGS Business Plan**

**Agenda**

In addition to the suggestion earlier regarding the review of the terms of reference it was also decided that Item 8 Succession planning should be moved to Amber as we have to fill the Deputy Chair role.

**Office**

Under item 3 Ensuring National Policies align it was suggested that we should make sure that one or two of our discussion sessions are given over to non-England subjects. The representatives from Wales and Scotland thought this was a good idea.

PC07/18 **Reports from National Councils**

(a) *England*

England Council has not met since our last meeting but are due to meet in June.

(b) *Northern Ireland*

Dr Rea was unable to attend but reported by e-mail that:-

1. We are continuing to work on our community care agenda with a further meeting planned for 9 June 2007 as a follow up for a community pathway workshop in mid March 2007.
2. We are taking part in a survey of patients' pathway to 'intermediate' care (i.e. care outside hospital) with waiting times etc. to care delivery being a major focus.
3. and the pressure continues to reduce trolley waits (with information from 2 driving this agenda)

(c) *Scotland*

Dr Lightbody reported that they are due to meet next week. They are involved in a workforce planning survey and are also trying to find a named individual on the Scottish Executive with whom they can discuss issues relating to the care of the older person, this however is proving very frustrating.

They are making arrangements for a conference on Care Home Medicine and have a draft programme ready.

(d) *Wales*

Dr Hasan reported that voting is about to commence for the North Wales vacancy on this committee and we should have the new representative confirmed shortly.

With regards to the implementation of the new NSF for Older People in Wales this was proceeding very slowly as the Welsh Assembly Government realised the financial implications of the NSF.

There are serious concerns about the very poor stroke provision in Wales and the Welsh Council has set up a meeting with the CMO and Health Minister to tackle this issue.

PC07/19 **Clinical Governance**

Dr Belfield explained that his draft has been updated but he wondered if he should wait for the outcome of the recertification and revalidation proposals. It was decided that as the principles will remain the same and we have heard no further on recertification and revalidation we should proceed with the paper. Dr Belfield agreed therefore to resend the latest draft with a view to signing it off in October. Professor Crome explained that there is a meeting of the College Council next week and he will hopefully receive an update on recertification and revalidation.

**PB**

PC07/20 **CPEC**

They met recently but there is nothing further to report.

PC07/21 **Consultation documents and correspondence received**

There are no ongoing consultations but following our response to the UK Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights we have been asked to give oral evidence. Professor Crome will be giving his evidence on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May and he wanted to ask the Committees views on two issues.

Firstly what should NHS Trusts do to promote human rights? The Committee felt that it would be going too far to employ a human rights officer as it should be simply part of good practice at all levels much like health and safety is. All policies should be reviewed for human rights legislation and should have a paragraph to this effect at the end.

Secondly do we have any literature on delayed discharge? Professor Crome was referred to Compendium paper 3.3.

PC07/22 **BGS Compendium**

**Agenda**

(a) *Standards of Service Plan*

A revised draft was circulated. This paper still requires some more work but the new style was welcomed. The following suggestions were made: The RCP Prescribing Guidelines (1997) should be included, as should the orthogeriatrics paper when it is completed. 2.1 should read Government Service Framework.

It was also felt that we should ask Chris Turnbull to review the paper against the new geriatric Curriculum which he has devised.

**Office**

(b) *CPR Decisions (2.3)*

A couple of typing mistakes were noted and we need to reformat the paper to compendium style but the Committee felt that this paper could now be signed off. However, given the nature of the subject matter it was decided that we would ask UKMC to also approve it and ask Simon Conroy who is leading the Advance Directive Guideline Group to give us his opinion.

**Office**

(c) *The Older Person in the A & E Department*

Dr Ahmad was working with Dr Beaumont on the review of this paper but he has had to resign from the committee. Dr Birns his replacement kindly agreed to take this on.

**JB**

(d) *Falls*

Dr Morris has not yet received a reply but is still chasing Dr Martin for the paper.

(e) *Continence Services*  
Dr Morris has not yet received a reply but is still chasing Dr Wagg for the paper.

(f) *Stroke*  
We have created a list of Stroke papers that we think are useful reference tools. We have been trying to find someone to write an introduction to this but Professor Crome wondered if we should take this further and have someone look at these papers from a geriatrician's point of view. The committee thought this was worth considering and Dr Ron MacWalter was suggested.

**Office**

PC07/23 **Any other business.**

(a) Position paper on GP's in Care Homes  
Dr Forsyth had asked us to consider a request he had received for the Society's position on GP's in Care Homes. The author wondered if we would support a scheme whereby each care home had a dedicated GP practice and a named GP. It was felt that we could not produce anything without consulting our GP colleagues and in particular the RCGP. Dr Morris agreed to contact Dr Forsyth.

**DF**

PC07/24 **Future meetings: (Please note earlier start time of 13.00)**

**Agenda**

Thursday 11 October 2007  
Thursday 7 February 2008  
Thursday 8 May 2008  
Thursday 4 September 2008  
Thursday 20 November 2008

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Signed by Dr Morris  
11<sup>th</sup> October 2007