

**BRITISH GERIATRICS SOCIETY  
POLICY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th October 2007 in the Amulree Room, Marjory Warren House, London EC1M 4DN

**Present:** Dr D Beaumont, Dr P Belfield, Dr J Birns, Ms S Briggs, Dr N Chambers, Dr B Chapman, Professor P Crome, Dr I Donlad, Dr I Lightbody, Dr J Morris (chair), Dr L Patterson and Dr C Vellodi.

**In attendance:** Mrs S Allport.

**PC07/25 End of Life Guidelines Action**

Dr Morris's paper had been circulated in advance. The national Council for Palliative Care and the BGS will share costs and distribution. The committee were supportive of the proposal and made the following comments:

- It must be linked to the Gold Standard Framework and the Liverpool Care Pathway.
- Is there someone in Scotland that we can add to the group? Dr Chapman agreed to consider this. **BC**
- Account should be taken of Dr Dr Ray Chaudhury's work on palliative care at King's Colleg.
- We should consult with the RCN Palliative Care and Older Peoples Mental Health forums via Nadia Chambers. **JM NC**
- We must not duplicate what is already published but compliment it.
- Negotiated end of life plans for patients would be welcome.
- Interaction with nutrition and rehydration tool kits.
- Consider having a representative from the care home sector on the group.
- If members of the group are there representing their organisations we must make sure that the organisation is aware of this and have approved it.

**Memorandum of Understanding with Help the Aged**

The draft MOU had been circulated in advance. We are currently awaiting Help the Aged's amendments. Help the Aged are advocates for vulnerable older people rather than older people in general and it was felt that getting our message across would be moiré effective if we worked with them. The committee agreed with this and gave their approval. Once the amendments from Help the Aged have been received it will be presented to UKMC.

**PC07/26 Welcomes and Apologies**

Apologies were received from: Dr D Forsyth, Dr K Ganeshram, Professor J Gladman, Dr M Hasan, Dr K Kelleher, Mr R Latham, Dr D Oliver, Professor J Starr, Dr F Tracey and Professor John Young.

Dr Nadia Chambers was welcomed as the new representative from the Nurse Consultants SIG.

**PC07/27 The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2007.**

The minutes were signed as an accurate record

The two lay members were thanked for producing reports; these gave a very valuable insight.

PC07/28 **Matters Arising**

(a) *Deputy Chair*

There were two candidates for the post of Deputy Chair, Dr Ian Donald and Dr Taj Hasan. Following a ballot Dr Ian Donald was elected. (He will start work as Vice Chair after the AGM.)

(b)

*Community Geriatrics*

The committee had asked to consider a newsletter article which is very popular on the web site. This was discussed by the Education and Training Committee at their last meeting and they are looking at incorporating some of it into their assessment grids. It was decided that as we already had papers covering these issues in the compendium we would leave this with the Education and Training Committee.

(c)

*Pandemic Flu*

Rodney Burnham (Registrar, RCP London) has been asking for our views on how the hospital sector can respond to this.

The gastroenterologists have produced a paper. We have asked the Department of Health's Older People section but they are unable to help us. It is a very difficult question. The committee felt that we should be restating that treatment should be on the basis of medical need rather than age. It was also suggested that normal ward staff receive extra training on how to care for patients who would traditionally be in intensive care but cannot due to overcrowding.

PC07/29 **UKMC Update**

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

With regards to the item on the RCP London re-certification survey Dr Belfield had been informed by the college that only 850 out of 10000 members had replied and they would be grateful for more responses.

It was noted that Dr Morris and Mr Mair had attended a meeting with Dr Darzi regarding the future of the NHS.

Academy of Royal Colleges Acute Medical Care – The first draft of this that we received did not include any mention of older people. This has now been rectified and we have commented on a second draft.

PC07/30 **House of Lord's Questions**

**Agenda**

4 questions had been asked in the House recently.

PC07/31 **BGS Business Plan**

**Agenda**

Item 8 can now be moved to green as a new Deputy Chair has been appointed.

PC07/32 **Reports from National Councils**

(a) *England*

England Council had met in June and are meeting at the end of the month.

(b) *Northern Ireland*

No one from Northern Ireland was able to attend

(c) *Scotland*

Dr Chapman reported that they have now made contact with someone in the Medical Officers office – Jennifer Armstrong who attended the last BGS Scotland meeting. She has set up a meeting with the policy advisors to enable us to include older people in their work on palliative care in Parkinson's Disease.

The primary and secondary care interface document has been revised by Dr Primrose so that it is applicable to Scotland and this is currently with RCGP Scotland awaiting their approval.

They also have a joint meeting organised for next February with RCGP Scotland on care home medicine. Two weeks ago they were co-sponsors of a meeting concerning discharge.

With the introduction of the Mental Capacity Act Dr Belfield asked how different it was in Scotland. They do have an equivalent but they are not sure how similar they are. It was decided that this would be the discussion item for the next meeting.

**Agenda**

(d) *Wales*

No one from Wales was able to attend.

Professor Crome reported that he has met recently with Mike Cheshire (Clinical Vice President RCP London) who has regular meetings with the RCGP London and they wish to focus more on older people.

PC07/33 **Clinical Governance**

Dr Belfield reported that he has a 2007 version of the paper which needs to be checked against the RCP London booklets that were issued recently and he also wants Dr Patterson to read it. It will then be presented to our February meeting for approval before being taken to UKMC.

**PB**

The college has also been asking each Specialist Society to name an individual for liaison regarding recertification and revalidation. Professor Crome confirmed that this would be discussed at UKMC.

PC07/34 **CPEC**

Dr Belfield was unable to make the last meeting and now that he is to become Policy Chair a replacement will need to be found. If anyone is interested can they please let him know? At the last meeting they approved the posters for the Harrogate meeting. 72 were submitted and 25 chosen. Discussions were had regarding the BGS becoming a repository for audits and a stroke guideline. The CME journal trial will begin shortly. Members should receive the first issue with the next newsletter.

**Committee**

PC07/35 **Consultation documents and correspondence received**

(a) *DH Essence of Care Consultation*

The response was approved by UKMC and submitted.

(b) *RCP London Consultants paper*

RCP London are reviewing this publication and we were asked to review and update the chapter on geriatric medicine. Some comments have been received from Dr Forsyth – if there are any more can they be sent to Dr Morris ASAP. She and Drs Belfield and Donald will revise it further. The office will contact the RCP London to see if we can have a little longer to work on this and also to see if we can incorporate links to documents on our website.

**Committee  
JM, PB, ID**

**Office**

PC07/36	<b>BGS Compendium</b>	<b>Agenda</b>
	(a) <i>Standards of Service Plan</i> It was agreed that this paper was ready for publication subject to the following amendments:	<b>Office</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The inclusion of the orthogeriatrics paper in section 7</li> <li>• The elder abuse section in 5.3 to be restructured by Dr Belfield</li> <li>• Contenance should be moved to section 7</li> <li>• 6.2 requires a sentence defining intermediate care</li> <li>• The section on continuing care should have links to the new rules which Dr Donald agreed to provide.</li> <li>• Links to all relevant NICE guidelines should be included.</li> </ul>	<b>PB</b>
	(b) <i>The Older Person in the A &amp; E Department</i> Dr Birns has revised the paper and Dr Beaumont has made some additional changes. He needs to discuss these with Dr Birns and then a draft will be sent to the committee. Once this paper has been finalised we will revise the paper on Acute Medical Care.	<b>ID</b>
	(c) <i>Orthogeriatrics</i> This paper was approved for publication.	<b>DB &amp; JB</b>
	(d) <i>Contenance Services</i> This paper was approved for publication subject to the term “the elderly” being replaced by older people and a slight modification made to the first statement about geriatricians.	<b>Office</b>
	(e) <i>Stroke</i> This paper was approved for publication subject to the term “the elderly” being replaced by older people.	<b>Office</b>
	(f) <i>Who should geriatricians look after?</i> Dr Beaumont has a rough outline of this paper which is based on a presentation he gave earlier this year. He hopes to have something for our next meeting.	
	(g) <i>BGS Strategic Review</i> Mr Mair had supplied the revised strategic review to replace the paper currently in the compendium. This paper is written differently in order to comply with the new Charity Commission requirements and the committee wondered if the separate paper “Aims and Functions” was still relevant as these were now discussed in the strategic review.	<b>AM</b>
	(h) <i>Papers that require reviewing</i> In light of earlier discussions there is only one other paper with a 2007 review date that we have not considered. This is Copying Letters to Patients and Dr Donald agreed to review it. Those papers with a 2008 review date will be discussed at our next meeting.	<b>ID</b>
PC07/37	<b>Any other business.</b>	
	The RCP London has informed Professor Crome that they are happy to receive applications for membership from non-doctors for their associate member category.	
	Can all comments on the Tooke report please be sent to the Office as the college are seeking our views? Dr Belfield agreed to circulate a power point presentation he had on this	<b>PB</b>

Dr Belfield announced that this is the last meeting of Dr Ian Lightbody (Scotland), Dr Kevin Kelleher and Dr Chandi Vellodi and Dr David Beaumont. Who were thanked for all their hard work and invaluable advice.

It is also the last meeting of Dr Jackie Morris who is retiring as Chair of the committee. She will be greatly missed Dr Belfield read a tribute from Dr Duncan Forsyth who was unable to be at the meeting.

"I would like recorded my appreciation of the immense energy that Jackie has brought to the role of Chair of the Policy Committee. The Society has benefited greatly from her apparently limitless enthusiasm, energy and contacts list! Jackie will be a hard act to follow.2

PC07/38 **Future meetings: (Please note earlier start time of 13.00)**

**Agenda**

Thursday 7 February 2008  
Thursday 8 May 2008  
Thursday 4 September 2008  
Thursday 20 November 2008

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Signed by Dr Belfield  
7<sup>th</sup> February 2008