



Briefing from meeting on 3 May 2012

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

- **Council strategy and business plan**

The draft constitution document had been circulated to the Council for comment and all organisations were requested to submit a copy of their constitution for information.

Discussion on the constitution of the Board of Directors followed and it was recommended that the Chair of the Council would chair the Board and that members of the Board would be elected from members of the Council. It was advisable to have an independent representative, but at present Diana Kloss filled that role. Consideration was given to appointing a Deputy Chair. It was noted that self nominations for positions on the Board (with their respective organisations' approval) would be sought. If more than six nominations were received a postal vote would be organised.

It was agreed that Christina Butterworth would be the first director on the Board.

- **Future funding possibilities**

The following two possible funding streams were discussed:

DWP may be sympathetic to provide funding and there was also a possibility to apply for Section 64 Funding from the Department of Health. Both would require future projects to be identified and the following were considered as possible projects:

Nurse training projects

Allied Health Professional projects

Development of the use of the Fit Note

Management of long term conditions and rehabilitation strategy

Discussion followed on the future of the Council for Work and Health and the role it should be playing in the coming years. It was stressed that that the Council should lead on the possible formation of a multidisciplinary College / Academy for those working in work and health. It was agreed that it should be an accrediting body (as well as covering training aspects). The Council agreed that a 'Think Paper/Green Paper' should be produced. The aim of the paper would be to plan that in 10-15 years we would have a College encompassing training and accreditation.

Consideration was given to the name of this body and it was agreed that "Academy of Work and Health" would show the overlap of the various disciplines.

- **Guidance for employers on communication with general practitioners**

It was reported that the RCGP was still keen to circulate the documents for comments and to upload them to their website. It was noted that the Leicestershire pilot was proving very positive and that EEF was keen to pilot the project. However the BMA were unwilling to pilot the project nation-wide, so local pilots would be organised by the RCGP.

- **Training and qualifications for occupational health nurses**

The Council were informed that a paper on this topic was currently being peer-reviewed and work was progressing for publication.

Further information would be available at the September Council meeting.

- **Advanced practitioner in occupational health**

It was reported that the project was still on-going and the mapping process with the three key organisations (Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and Ergonomists) was progressing well. A full update would be given at the Council meeting in September 2012.

It was agreed that the competency framework would be held by the Council.

- **Strategy for people with long-term health conditions**

Diana Kloss reported that she had attended a two-day conference on the management of long-term conditions; a further meeting had been arranged and was attended by Andrew Frank.

It was noted that the Responsibility Deal had also carried out work on the management of long-term illness for employers.

The next Council meeting was scheduled for 25 September 2012.