



Briefing from Council meeting held on 3 February 2016

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

Invited Guest

Dr Pui-Ling Li (PLL), Chief Medical Officer, Department for Work and Pensions

The Chair welcomed Pui-Ling Li to the meeting and thanked her for coming to talk to the Council members. DK gave a brief background to the history and workings of the Council for Work and Health.

Pui-Ling Li stated that she did not want to give a formal presentation, but wanted to hear from Council members their areas of concern. Issues relating to the respective roles of the DWP and the NHS were discussed. Members of the Council asked about the development of the fit note and whether physiotherapists should be given the power to sign fit notes, as they had in the past.

The Chair added that members of the Council were always ready to advise and participate in discussions with the DWP, as had happened in the development of the fit note and the creation of the Fit for Work service.

Council strategy and business plan

The Council received the revised business plan and members were encouraged to share professional standards they had agreed, which could be placed on the Council's website.

Update on Council projects: Occupational Health Workforce Planning Group

The Council was updated on the OH Workforce project. Stage 2 builds on the first stage and uses the same case studies. It was hoped that the Executive Summary would be published in hard copy and made available at the Health and Wellbeing Conference in Birmingham (8-9 March 2016).

Communications update and social media (Twitter and Linked In)

It was noted that the FOM and SOM had recruited a communications adviser / manager. Unfortunately at the moment it would not be possible to ask the communications adviser to work on Council for Work and Health matters but this may be reviewed in the future.

It was agreed that a Twitter account, and Linked In account would be set up on the Council's behalf.

Website

The website statistics of hits were noted as follows:

November 2015 - 548, December 2015 - 442, January 2016 - 721.

Elections in 2016 for Board members and a Deputy Chair

Elections for the 2 (3) Board members would take place after the election of a Deputy Chair.

Business Links and Awards



A small group of Council members had met to discuss business links and awards and agreed that it may be better to look at awards for individuals who had made a significant input rather than organisations. It was recommended that as there was a lot of work involved with such awards a light touch approach should be adopted. The matter would be considered by the Board of Directors.

Succession planning – job profile for Chair of the Council for Work and Health

The appointment of a Chair for the Council after Diana Kloss's retirement, having led the Council for six years was discussed. The Chair agreed to continue to serve until a new Chair is appointed.

FOHN membership of the Council

It was agreed that a representative from the FOHN would attend Council meetings, as an observer, and give updates as appropriate.

The next meeting of the Council will take place on Wednesday 18 May 2016 (AGM)