



Briefing from Council meeting - 11 March 2010

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

- **Funding for Council**

Central funding had been provided to establish the Council as part of the Government response to the Black Review. This would be time limited and the Council would need to formalise its structure and governance arrangements and develop a business plan so that it can operate independently. A collaboration with UKRC for office space and administrative support was suggested and would be further investigated.

- **Membership**

It was agreed that the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in OH and Ergonomics (ACPOHE) and COHPA (Commercial OH Providers Association) should be full members of the Council. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) would attend as an observer, as requested.

- **FOM strategy paper on national OH provision**

David Coggon presented a FOM paper on the future delivery of OH services (see http://www.facocmed.ac.uk/library/docs/pp_natstrat.pdf). The Council supported its conclusions as follows:

- **Improving occupational health training**

The Council should promote occupational health as a career at all levels and lobby for improvements in training of medical and nursing staff.

- **Lack of co-ordination/integration in OH delivery**

The Council could help address the current lack of co-ordination and integration in OH delivery, eg. by developing care pathways.

- **Incentives to employers to provide OH**

It was agreed to develop a paper on taxation which would identify the disincentives for employers and individuals. This could then be developed to include the rationale for change for the Council to promote to politicians.

- **Guidance for employers on obtaining and using OH advice from GPs**

It was agreed to set up a working group to develop guidance and a generic process for communication between employers and GPs.

- **OH nurse training**

The Council discussed a paper on OH nurse training developed by Anne Harriss and a small working group. It was agreed that some revision would be useful. It was noted that the Chief Nurse had announced an intention to make changes to the third part of the NMC register and that this was an opportunity to influence the outcomes.

It was agreed that there was benefit in sharing OH training with other staff groups and that training for allied health professionals also needed to be improved. A paper for OT, physiotherapy, etc would therefore be developed.

- **Website**

It was agreed to go ahead with the development of a simple website, with the facility to add additional functionality over time. The purpose of the website was:

- To provide information on the Council, its objectives, member organisations etc
- To provide information for employers/employees by signposting to member organisations
- To inform on ongoing activities and outcomes
- To provide reports and surveys

- **Health and wellbeing co-ordinators**

A list of regional health and wellbeing co-ordinators had been circulated for information.

- **Productivity and good health at work**

A short report from Dr Richard Heron, Professor of International Business and Health at Nottingham University, on Health, Productivity and the Workforce of the Future, was noted.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 18 May.