



Briefing from Council meeting - 18 May 2010

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

- **Website**

Three draft web pages had been prepared and were circulated for comment. Information for member organisations was being collected for uploading. It was agreed that Diana Kloss would act as moderator for information on the site, which would be updated by Wendy Coleman.

- **Membership**

NHS Plus and military OH providers had been invited to join the Council and would identify representatives. UKRC had also requested Council membership.

- **Funding / accommodation for Council**

UKRC would be moving premises in the near future and it was uncertain whether they would be able to accommodate/support the Council as suggested.

Funding would be a key issue for the future. It was agreed that the Council should produce a costed business plan, which Kit Harling would promote to the Department of Health. Member organisations were asked to put forward activities they felt the Council should undertake over the coming years.

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

David Coggon reported that he and Dame Carol had met with Andrew Murrison, MP, who supported the proposal for regional occupational physicians.

- **Specifications for an occupational health service**

Kit Harling submitted a paper which he had developed to identify the core services which should be provided by an occupational health service. The paper was for information.

- **Pre-employment health assessment**

Kit Harling had produced a paper sharing recommendations from a report on this topic, which was due to be published shortly. It was hoped that the report would encourage all NHS OH teams to work to the same standards. Dame Carol Black supported the proposals as the

productivity gain it would provide was vital to deliver the recommendation of Dr Boorman's review of the health of NHS staff. Comments were invited from the Council.

- **Taxation disincentives for OH provision**

David Wright had prepared a paper on tax disincentives but financial information to identify the cost of changes was needed. Dame Carol Black and Kit Harling agreed to check with DWP and DH to see if this was available.

- **Guidance on communication with GPs**

David Coggon had written a proposal for a working group to develop guidance for communication between employers and GPs. Diana Kloss agreed to chair the group and convene a meeting. Cynthia Atwell provided contact details for the Federation of Small Businesses.

- **OH nurse training**

The report had been revised and was discussed by the Council. It was agreed that it should be sent to Chief Nursing Officers in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to ask for their views on OH nurse training and to gauge the level of support for the report. A meeting with the NMC would then be requested.

- **Assessments for employment support allowance**

It was understood that DWP were auditing the assessments for employment support allowance and agreed that a letter should be sent to Dr Bill Gunnyeon, Chief Medical Adviser at DWP, requesting clarification on the current situation.

- **OH training for occupational therapists and physiotherapists**

Nicola Hunter informed the Council that there was no central regulatory body for OTs and physiotherapists, but they were regulated by the Health Professions Council. As a result there was a wide variety of training with no uniform standards. It was agreed that Nicola Hunter, Leonie Dawson and Anne Johnson would produce a combined paper (OT and physio) for the next meeting.

- **Healthy Working UK**

Hilary Todd informed the meeting that the Healthy Working UK website went live on 6 April 2010 to coincide with the launch of the Fit Note. Members were directed to <http://www.healthyworkinguk.co.uk/>

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 29 September 2010.