

**Services and Standards Committee**  
**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010**  
**Durley Room, Bournemouth International Centre**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

**Members Present:**

<b>Chairman:</b>	Dr JG Llewelyn	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Dr SR Hammans	(Wessex)
<b>ABN Honorary Secretary:</b>	Dr H Angus-Leppan	
	Dr M Manford	East Anglia
	Dr A Weir	Oxford
	Dr R Bosnell	Trainee rep
	Dr J Kimber	South West Thames
	Dr S Pollock	Invited
	Dr J Tarafder	Yorkshire
	Prof M Rosser	President Elect
	Dr B Lecky	Mersey
	Dr Dr J Quirk	Less than full time rep
	Dr R Orrell	North East Thames
	Dr G Stuart	East Scotland
	Dr P McKee	North East
	Dr J Sussman	Manchester

- 1.1 **Apologies for Absence:** Dr F Norwood  
Dr R Grunewald  
Dr P Heywood  
Dr O Malik  
Dr B Davies  
Dr A Ming  
Dr N Fletcher

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting (1/12/09) were read and approved

Dr Llewelyn informed the meeting that the payment by results tariff will be made uniform across the UK (information from Professor Venables).

Dr Llewelyn asked Dr Hammans to contact David Bateman with respect to progress on the NSPA investigation in respect of lumbar puncture.

**Action: Dr Hammans**

3. **Job Description**

Dr Llewelyn reaffirmed that members of this committee also act as regional specialty advisers for the Royal College of Physicians. The job description for regional specialty advisers was circulated and a document giving a job description for SSC representatives from 1997 was obtained and this will be updated by Dr Llewelyn.

Together these documents will provide guidance for members on their role both as SSC members and as regional specialty advisers. Dr Llewelyn requested that the Royal College of Physicians provide an up to date list of neurology RSAs. Karen Reeves was asked to send a reminder to the college in this respect.

**Action: Karen Reeves**

4. **Updates**

4.1 Manpower

Mark Manford introduced the document from the workforce review team. This is a group within the Department of Health, England who examine likely skill shortages in different disciplines. They have used the ABN publication indicating a desirable Consultant workforce of 1 per 73,000 population which corresponds to demand for 1000 filled medical posts. Their conclusion is that immigration of relevant skilled specialists to the UK will be needed to fill these posts in the short term. This was discussed. Although it was felt unlikely that we would require this number of specialists in the short term there was evidence of unfilled posts within England and the UK. Dr Manford will express the committee's view that quality standards should be met.

**Action: Mark Manford**

4.2 DGH Neurology

Dr Pollock was invited to the meeting to discuss the paper 'Meeting the needs of adults with disorders of the nervous system: a blueprint for care...' The document has previously been reviewed by the committee but since then has undergone substantial revision. Much of the editing has been done by Professor Warlow at the request of Council. The committee discussed the view that the hub and spoke model should be replaced by regional networks which could be applied flexibly according to resources, geography and other factors. Dr Pollock explained that the document was owned by the Royal College of Physicians and one of the needs was to persuade commissioners of the requirement to fund neurological expansion. Dr Fletcher's comments were presented by Dr Lecky and Dr Llewelyn will circulate these comments. Dr Pollock was happy to accept comments and incorporate them into the latest version.

The document 'Minimum standards for neurologists' introduced by Dr Hammans at the last meeting could be used as an appendix to this document. It will also be placed on the website for the use of members in negotiating facilities in hospitals.

**Action: Karen Reeves – to place Minimum Standards document on new website**

4.3 Revalidation

A document prepared by Professor Warlow and Dr Wroe summarising the ABN views on Revalidation was distributed in the meeting and should be discussed by members of this committee with colleagues locally to keep them informed of likely future requirements. It is sensible for the SSC to take on responsibility for updating Council and Members on issues of revalidation. Dr Quirk expressed an interest in helping with this.

#### 4.4 Quality indicators

Quality indicators were discussed following the longer discussion at the previous meeting. Dr Llewelyn had met with officers of the Neurological Alliance and Dr Clough will present and produce a paper for discussion at the next SSC.

**Action: Karen Reeves to invite Chris Clough and Clare Noonan (Neurological Alliance) to the next meeting**

#### 4.5 Audit

Dr Jarman was absent at this meeting and this was not discussed.

### 5. **Regional Reports**

North East – Paul McKee stated that there was 1 consultant post unfilled and 4 SpR posts unfilled. He also reported the pressure of new job plans often having 1.5 SPAs as opposed to the typical average of 2.5 recommended in the terms and conditions of the new Consultant contract.

Gillian Stewart (deputising for Richard Davenport) stated that there were substantial problems with hospital at night which was using Neurology SpRs for general medical take (in Dundee) which restricted the number of hours neurology registrars could spend on neurological duties.

Richard Orrell described difficulties in job plans with mis-assignment of clinical care as SPA.

Jenny Quirk, (also deputising for Fiona Norwood) stated that in South East Thames there were several unfilled consultant posts.

Brian Lecky, (deputising for Nick Fletcher) from the Walton centre expressed some success in the expanding ITU facilities and ward facilities at the Walton hospital.

Dr Tarafder, (deputising for Alex Ming) said that there were several unfilled Consultant vacancies and also unfilled SpR posts with further reduction because of out of program activities of trainees. Other members indicated that out of program leave could cause gaps in registrar rotas.

John Sussman representing Manchester said that they recently had funding for 5 new posts to meet outpatient targets previously filled by locums. Manchester had performed an analysis of GP referrals to neurologists. They concluded that referral rates would reasonably correspond to 7.5 referrals per 1000 patients per year. In GP practices over-referring they had identified that a larger proportion of headaches were referred and demand management may concentrate on these areas. Dr Sussman was requested to circulate details of the audit for the information of other members.

Dr Kimber representing South West Thames stated that there were no unfilled Consultant posts.

Dr Rose Bosnell representing ABNT reported that trainees had requested that a maximum of one year should be spent in District General Hospitals. Other members felt that this shouldn't be rigidly applied because it should be possible to obtain good quality training within District General Hospitals when properly supported.

Dr Weir representing the Oxford regions stated that there were unfilled Consultant vacancies, echoed by Mark Manford, representing Cambridge.

Dr Llewelyn (representing Wales in Dr Rickard's absence) reported that a re-organisation resulted in 7 Health Boards rather than Trust PCTs etc and this may promise more resources for neurology. No unfilled consultant posts.

Dr Hammans representing Wessex described how underfunding of tertiary care had led to requests for demand management. However, there were grave difficulties in restricting demand from the hospital and this would require an initiative from PCTs and GP referrals. Dr Hammans also indicated the severe problems with junior staff exiting the programme within the year for justified reasons leading to severe shortfall in junior staff and how appointment to SpR programmes within the year was required, a need agreed by other members of the committee.

## 6. **Other Business**

- 6.1 Representatives requiring re-election or replacement include Richard Orrell for North East Thames, Andrew Weir from Oxford, Colin O'Leary from West Scotland, Richard Grunewald from Trent, Simon Hammans from Wessex, Paul Jarman from NHNN and Alex Ming from Yorkshire. Dr Llewelyn explained that a second tenure of 3 years was possible if agreed locally with colleagues but that after a total of 6 years a replacement was required. If more than one member wishes to stand then they should contact Karen Reeves who can arrange an election.

**Action: Karen Reeves will write to the above members informing them of the need for re-election.**

- 6.2 Dr Llewelyn thanked Dr Hammans for his work as secretary for the SSC and invited members to contact him or Karen Reeves before the next meeting if they wish to consider taking on the role of SSC secretary (pending reselection if that was necessary).
7. Date of next meeting will be in January 2011, date yet to be confirmed.