



Minutes of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change Executive Committee

Held online 11 April 2024, 14.30-16.30

Present: Juliet Dobson (BMJ), Rose Gallagher (RCN), Terry Kemple (RCGP), Jacob Kranowski (RCPsych), Elaine Mulcahy (Director; UKHACC), Richard Smith (Chair; UKHACC), Liz Marder (RCPCH), Emma Radcliffe (GP), Eleanor Roaf (FPH), Anandita Pattnaik (UKHACC)

Apologies for absence: Sandy Mather (ICS), Ranee Thakar (RCOG)

Summary of actions:

- RS to email Greener NHS about carbon footprint report > Done
- EM to indicate level of disappointment of service with accountant to them
- EM to notify members of the HIS application approved and complete the joining process > Done
- RG to follow up with contacts at RCMidwives about joining
- Call for nominations paper, process and election timeline to be prepared for May executive committee, ready to launch in June > On Agenda
- Discussion and decision on trustees stepping down at the September AGM to take place before next meeting > Done
- Skills audit of trustees to be completed
- Review constitution wording on appointment of a chair > Done
- Start process of identifying individuals to approach as potential candidates for chair
- RS to approach David Pencheon regarding becoming a UKHACC Ambassador > Done
- Support Climate and Health Scorecard in seeking resource > meeting requested
- Produce a barometer to measure of Commitments uptake > Follow up after relaunch
- Take forward the actions agreed at council on securing greater uptake of the commitments > Project plan outline developed
- Produce an overview of the levels of engagement of our members > In progress
- Approach AoMRC regarding discussing UKHACC representation/contacts
- UKHACC RFTL Event to be added to RFTL website and UKHACC website > Done
- Invitation to join UKHACC RFTL to members and also included in newsletter and social media > Done
- Explore option for using RFTL to raise funding for UKHACC
- RS to reply to Rachel Armitage to commence the process of setting up a fundraising committee > In progress
- RS/EM to meet with Mike Davies to find out more details about the specific ask > Meeting organised
- RS/EM to discuss how we communicate Climate Fresk to members and offer sessions > RS writing blog
- RS/EM to follow up Greener NHS on their interest in using Fresk

- A follow up discussion on the key questions regarding our role and future attendance at ATACH is to take place at the next meeting
- RS/EM to put TK in contact with SHC partner engagement group > Done
- EM to email course coordinator of Future Learn MOOC (massive open online course) on environmental sustainability in healthcare to confirm endorsement > Done

1. Welcome from the Chair

RS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minute from the March meeting

The minute from the March meeting was accepted.

Updates on actions from the last meeting:

The following actions we discussed

- There is disappointment with the level of service being provided by the accountant. They have been slow to deliver on review and feedback, poor email response and not turning up to meetings. It was agreed an email noting our concerns should be shared with them and a process to explore alternative options initiated in case this is needed.

3. Joining application from Healthcare Infection Society

The trustees discussed and approved an application to join from the Healthcare Infection Society. RS thanked RG for the contact. The trustees approved the application.

It was agreed we should follow up with the Royal College of Midwives. RG agreed to take this away.

Action:

- EM to notify members of the HIS application approved and complete the joining process
- RG to follow up with contacts at RCMidwives about joining

4. March Director's report

The March Director's report was shared prior to the meeting. Key points highlighted:

Points noted were:

- Invitations have been sent to peers and MPs for the parliamentary event on 22 April
- Following discussions with BMJ, they will no longer be partnering with the In Conversation series, so we will go ahead and organise a new date for the advocacy and activism webinar with HCWH. BMJ will continue to do the one with Simon Stevens
- The select committee inquiry into urban green space, which were were invited to give evidence to, has reported to DEFRA arguing that green spaces should be a much higher priority and call for reforms and greater government leadership to encourage more investment into and facilitation of green infrastructure

5. Budget update

The accountant has reviewed our xero entries and provided some feedback. A meeting had been scheduled with the accountant to run through the review recommendations on 9 April. However, the accountant did not show up to the meeting. Another meeting has been scheduled for 23 April.

The March budget vs income/expenditure overview is available for review on the spreadsheet of the accounts The budget is currently on track with no issues to report.

The contract renewal for Engaging Networks is due in June 2024. This has been budgeted for 2024 but they have requested us to sign a two year contract at the rate of £12,457 + VAT per year).

6. Trustee elections

Three of the existing founding trustees are required to retire from office at the AGM in September 2024. A call for nominations for new trustees will need to be issued to membership organisations in June (nominations to close on 15 July) with elections taking place from August to September.

As two of the longest serving members of the executive committee Liz Marder and Terry Kemple intend to retire in September. Another of the founding trustees will also be required to step down. Discussions will take place about this over the next few weeks.

Retiring trustees are eligible for re-election if they are nominated by a membership organisation. Trustees may serve two consecutive terms, and may not be reappointed for a third consecutive term for an interval of at least three years.

It was recommended and agreed to do a skills audit of trustees to determine how we function as a board and to identify any skills gaps, which may be outlined in a call for nominations and/or when co-opting trustees.

RS advised that he will retire as Chair in September 2025 (at this point he will have completed six years in the role). Appointment of a chair will involve an advertisement and interview process and the process for identifying potential candidates is something we should start thinking about now.

We should also review the constitution to establish whether an update about how the Chair is appointed needs to be amended within the governing document.

A point was made that we also need to think of diversity in terms of trustee recruitment

Action:

- Discussion and decision on trustees stepping down at the September AGM to take place before next meeting
- Skills audit of trustees to be completed
- Review constitution wording on appointment of a chair
- Start process of identifying individuals to approach as potential candidates for chair

7. Appointing a new UKHACC ambassador

RS proposed appointing a new UKHACC ambassador. The [role of ambassadors](#) is outlined in this document.

David Pencheon was suggested as someone who could be a potential ambassador. He was the Head of Sustainable Development unit when it began and has an established record.

It was agreed that David Pencheon should be approached.

Action:

- RS to approach David Pencheon regarding becoming a UKHACC Ambassador

8. Council meeting debrief

The draft minute of the March council meeting was shared prior to the meeting.

Points noted were:

- It felt like a good meeting with good attendance. There was good discussion on being tougher on commitments and an appetite for going faster.
- There was a sense of a change in tone and pressure to get going, which was a positive change. It felt different to previous meetings.
- We didn't get to do a breakout session. This is something that can help equalise the dynamic between those in person and online and something we should aim to ensure we do at the next meeting.
- The discussion on the scorecard and commitments was encouraging. We should push harder next year to encourage more organisations to complete the score card,
- We need to better understand the willingness for action and should continue with development of the commitments and sign ups for another year and then look at considering being firmer about delivery.
- There will be further discussion on who has and has not signed up at the meeting in September
- There was an interesting conversation on pressure to be harder on our members but it would be better to support and help those not able to deliver the commitments at this stage than remove them from UKHACC
- The enormity of what Amelia and El from the Climate and Health Scorecard have achieved was noted. If this is a priority, we need to get behind the scorecard with help find the resource to support them.
- It would be good to get a sense of the levels of engagement among our different members
- It would be helpful to develop a qualitative measure of how the actions in the scorecard have benefited organisations
- A barometer measure for reporting on uptake of our commitments may be a positive way to report on progress (e.g. currently on 45% of our members have signed up, hoping to report by the September that it is 75%)
- There would be value in consistent UKHACC representation at AoMRC meetings. RS did meet with AoMRC in 2019 but we have not had any further contacts with them. Speaking to them again would be useful

Actions:

- Support Climate and Health Scorecard in seeking resource
- Produce a barometer to measure of Commitments uptake
- Take forward the actions agreed at council on securing greater uptake of the commitments
- Produce an overview of the levels of engagement of our members
- Approach AoMRC regarding discussing UKHACC representation/contacts

9. UKHACC Ride for their Lives

An event outline for the UKHACC Ride for their Lives on 9 June was shared prior to the meeting.

Details of the event are:

Date: 2pm Sunday 9 June 2024

Venue: Regent's Park, London

Route: Circuit of Regent's Park

Distance: 5km

The UKHACC Ride for their Lives will take place during Great Big Green Week (8-16 June). The theme of GBGW is 'Let's swap together for good'. During our ride we would aim to raise awareness about swapping the car for cleaner, active travel. Swapping books was also suggested.

Brompton's bikes have offered to provide foldable bikes.

It was suggested there may be a potential to link the event with a fundraising initiative and agreed we should look into this.

Actions:

- UKHACC RFTL Event to be added to RFTL website and UKHACC website
- Invitation to join UKHACC RFTL to members and also included in newsletter and social media
- Explore option for using RFTL to raise funding for UKHACC

10. Setting up a fundraising advisory committee

Following discussion at the Council meeting in March, it was agreed that a fundraising advisory committee should be established.

Since the Council meeting, Rachel Armitage, RCNi has emailed RS saying she would be willing to chair or join a fundraising committee.

JK has also offered to join a group and suggested it may be helpful to look at similar organisations that have funding to identify potential funders to approach. We need to have a pitch and clear message on what we are asking for. There may also be external organisations willing to lend their expertise.

Andy Stevenson from RCSEngland also indicated an interest in joining a committee.

The fundraising committee would operate separately to the trustees committee but would submit a proposal to go to the trustees for decision..

A question was asked about the difference between fundraising and sponsorship. There is an appetite by commercial companies to sponsor which can bring advantages but also conflicts of interest. This is the type of thing the committee would consider.

Actions:

- RS to reply to Rachel Armitage to commence the process of setting up a fundraising committee

11. Collaborating with the Climate Change Committee

At his presentation to the Council in March, Professor Mike Davies from the Climate Change Committee advised that the secretariat is keen to engage with UKHACC on collaborating more closely. The Committee has produced theories of change in each of the sectors of what we need to do to get to where we need to be. Health is currently only included in one of them and the CCC want to address this by collaborating to integrate health into the sectors. The Wellcome Trust has provided funding to integrate health and eight or nine full time researchers will be working on this.

It was agreed at the March Council meeting that UKHACC would coordinate a group to go back to the CCC to discuss collaboration.

Actions:

- RS/EM to meet with Mike Davies to find out more details about the specific ask

12. Climate Fresk follow up

UKHACC trustees participated in a Climate Fresk workshop prior to the council meeting on 21 March. The photos taken during the session and the impact/difficulty chart are saved in this folder. AP has subsequently asked about training as a facilitator.

Points noted were:

- Some were left with a feeling of 'what next' - what should you do now. That next step was missing
- The session was very interesting and we all learned something
- It was good to see the exec around two tables and working on it
- For people who do not know much about climate change prior to doing a Fresk it could be quite challenging, and if offering this there is a question of responsibility to direct people to where they might find support afterwards
- Three hours was a long time and it was felt this might be a barrier
- It would have been good to have more time for discussion at the end and a clearer sense of what actions we are going to take next
- The Fresk did a good job of showing the complexity of connections but missed communicating the scale of change and urgency needed, which are critical elements in driving behaviour change
- The description of Fresk and how it is important for health could be more directive to sustainability and health
- It is easy to sign up to and do the training and it is cheap. It is worth promoting this to members as something they could do and offer to their members and staff
- We should discuss with Greener NHS about doing this. It would sit well alongside the carbon literacy course and give people a good handle on what they can do
- Harnessing a single voice and a lot of noise. What are the key things we should concentrate on for the new government. Post election we need to see which are resonating with the likely politicians.

Actions:

- RS/EM to discuss how we communicate Climate Fresk to members and offer sessions
- RS/EM to follow up Greener NHS on their interest in using Fresk

13. Feedback on ATACH meeting

RG attended the ATACH meeting in Madrid on 4-5 March and presented her observations. The presentation slides can be viewed [here](#).

Questions raised for consideration and further discussion were:

Should UKHACC continue to attend future ATACH meetings. Online attendance is possible for scheduled virtual meetings, but discussion is required on how to manage future face to face meetings and budget allocation for this. RG found the face to face meeting to be a valuable experience that gave a better understanding of what ATACH is aiming to deliver.

Given the role and remit of UKHACC, what is our unique contribution to ATACH from a UK and international perspective? The role of HCPs in influencing change was clear and we have a unique position in the UK to do this. It might be useful to meet with Chris Carter to discuss what more UK and do and what we can help with to move things forward.

Actions:

- A follow up discussion on the key questions regarding our role and future attendance at ATACH is to take place at the next meeting

14. UKHACC representation on SHC low carbon clinical trial/partner engagement

The Sustainable Healthcare Coalition partner engagement meetings take place quarterly. UKHACC is invited to attend these meetings but currently not represented.

UKHACC was involved in initiating this project. It was set up by the Sustainable Healthcare Coalition and funded by NIHR. They have now developed a tool and want someone from UKHACC to be in the group which will be thinking about how they take this forward. TK put himself forward to represent UKHACC on this group.

Actions:

- RS/EM to put TK in contact with SHC partner engagement group

15. Endorsement of Future Learn course

UKHACC was asked to endorse a Future Learn MOOC (massive open online course) on environmental sustainability in healthcare. TK reviewed the course to consider it for endorsement.

The level of endorsement recommended is Level 2: indicating UKHACC supports the work, it aligns with UKHACC policy, and upholds UKHACC values. The logo will be provided as an endorser of the course.

Actions:

- EM to email course coordinator of Future Learn MOOC (massive open online course) on environmental sustainability in healthcare to confirm endorsement

16. Risk register

The risk register was shared prior to the meeting.

17. Any other business**18. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held online at 14.30-16.30 Thursday 9 May 2024