



Minutes of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change Executive Committee

Held online 8 August 2024, 14.30-16.30

Present: Juliet Dobson (BMJ), Terry Kemple (RCGP), Jacob Kranowski (RCPsych), Sandy Mather (ICS), Elaine Mulcahy (Director, UKHACC), Richard Smith (Chair, UKHACC), Liz Marder (RCPCH), Anandita Pattnaik (UKHACC), Emma Radcliffe (GP), Eleanor Roaf (FPH), Raneer Thakar (RCOG)

Apologies for absence: Rose Gallagher (RCN)

Summary of actions:

- Proposal for call out to members to develop a library of webinars/podcasts to be carried forward
- Benefits of membership document to be produced (carried forward) > Done
- EM/AP to cross check responses to letter against elected candidates > In progress
- TK will approach RCGP, JD will approach BMJ, LM will ask RCPCH, JK to approach RCPsych regarding hosting UKHACC council meetings on 27 March and 25 September 2025
- Thank you letter to CSH regarding their offers related to our commitments > Done
- Write to the newly appointed members of the APPG on Climate Change and the Labour Climate and Environment Forum
- Trustees to come back with the remit of the fundraising committee - RS/EM to take this forward (funding versus fundraising) > On agenda
- Affiliate conversation as part of strategic planning session in September
- Add funders to the risk register
- EM to notify members to save the dates of Council meeting on 27 March and 25 September > Done
- RS/EM to discuss recruitment of a finance person to be co-opted to the executive committee
- Single transferable vote system to be used next year
- AP/EM to add migration to list of areas to be covered in the scope of the adaptation report > Done
- EM to advise the organiser of the Conference and Concert on financial solutions to climate injustice that UKHACC will not be a partner of the event > Done
- AP/EM to promote Green Maternity Challenge in our newsletter and social media channels (RT to send the details) > Done
- EM to add RCOG work as a case study on UKHACC commitments webpages > In progress
- RT to speak to colleagues at Royal College of Midwives about joining UKHACC > Email sent
- EM to share details about the Stop Rosebank campaign with trustees and any objections to be notified by 5pm Friday 9 August > Done
- EM to issue letter of change to contract to AP regarding extending her contract by a further six months > Done

1. Welcome from the Chair

RS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minute from the July meeting

The minute from the July meeting was accepted.

The following actions were discussed and/or carried forward from the previous meeting

- Good time to encourage members to give us time for free now that we have dates for council meetings well ahead of time. TK will approach RCGP, JD will approach BMJ, LM will ask RCPCH, JK to approach RCPsych

3. July Director's report

The July Director's report was shared prior to the meeting. Points noted were:

- We have launched an Instagram account. This is following feedback through the Communicate Climate programme. We are also on LinkedIn. We are not on TikTok as it was not recommended by the Media Trust review and is also quite resource intensive
- Following the election of the new government, we have issued a statement congratulating Keir Starmer, commented on the King's Speech (noting the omission of Clean Air and Nature) and supported a letter calling on the government to back the Climate and Nature Bill. We have also written to the PM and secretaries of state for energy security and net zero; transport; Housing, Communities and Local Government; Health and Social Care; Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. It was agreed we should also write to the newly appointed members of the APPG on Climate Change and the Labour Climate and Environment Forum.
- Fossil fuel report launch is planned for August. This will be a soft launch to get the report published and share widely prior to more targeted engagement afterwards (e.g. Stop Rosebank campaign)
- CSH has provided a range of offers that are mapped to our commitments. It was agreed we should send a thank you letter.

4. Budget update

The July budget vs income/expenditure overview was shared for review on the spreadsheet of the accounts. Following a query of the accounts by Milsted Langdon regarding the Health Foundation grant award, an accounting error by the Health Foundation was discovered. One of the payments made in 2023 was £14,400 lower than it should have been. EM is working with the Health Foundation to rectify this.

5. End of year accounts (2023)

The 2023 end of year accounts and letter of representation produced by Milsted Langdon were shared prior to the meeting.

The trustees approved the accounts.

Actions:

- RS to sign accounts and send to Milsted Langdon
- EM to upload final accounts to HMRC

6. End of year forecast (2024)

A paper outlining the end of year forecast for this year was shared prior to the meeting and discussed. EM talked through the document during the meeting. No issues were raised.

7. 2024 subscriptions options paper

A spreadsheet with options for increasing membership subscription fees by 2% and 5% was shared prior to the meeting and discussed. The current UK rate of inflation is 2%.

Increasing fees by 2% with lower and upper caps for membership organisations of £510 and £5,580 respectively, would increase the overall subscriptions income by £3,674 to £131,700.

It was pointed out that the total increase in income from increasing subscriptions by 2% is less than recruiting a new member of a large organisation.

It was agreed that subscription fees should be increased by 2%.

Action:

- Notify members of the proposal to increase fees by 2% at the council meeting in September.

8. Fundraising strategy

Rachel Armitage (RCNi), chair of the Fundraising Committee, joined the meeting and presented the fundraising strategy paper. RA was thanked for developing this document.

Trustees were asked if they agree with the proposed remit of the fundraising committee.

Points noted on this topic were:

- Consider narrowing the remit of the committee down to fundraising rather than funding?
- We need to agree how much we're asking for so there is clarity for the committee to understand the remit
- Need to have a good cause - fundraising committee can execute how that's going to be
- Don't want to end up chasing money and be distorted from our mission. Need to determine what our priorities are and be clear about this.

Other points discussed and noted were:

- A discussion on affiliate membership will take place at the trustee strategy day and has also been asked in the membership survey
- Need guidance on who we are willing to expect money from (e.g. pharma companies, international sponsorship)
- Need to take a high moral high ground but to also have a degree of tolerance
- It would be best to start with companies that we are confident will not cause conflicts or issues
- This should be added to the risk register

Actions:

- Trustees to come back with the remit of the fundraising committee - RS/EM to take this forward (funding versus fundraising)
- Affiliate conversation as part of strategic planning session in September
- Add funders to the risk register

9. 2025 Council meeting dates

It was agreed the 2025 council and AGM would take place at:
2-5pm Thursday 27 March (Council) and 2-5pm Thursday 25 September (Council and AGM)

Actions:

- EM to notify members to save the dates of Council meeting on 27 March and 25 September

10. Skills audit result

RS completed a skills audit of trustees. The results were shared prior to the meeting. RS presented his provisional conclusions. The board has satisfactory skills in governance, people and operations, but is weak on finance, fundraising and digital and marketing.

It was agreed that we should repeat the exercise with the new board following the outcome of elections and then consider co-opting trustees to meet skills needs. We should also use this knowledge to encourage nominations from individuals with particular skill sets in next year's trustee elections.

Points noted:

- Mix of getting a person that has skills and upskilling the rest of the recruit. Would be good to train all trustees on understand set of accounts. There might be free courses we can do.
- NCVO membership provides really good courses on charity governance and accounts, and potentially others
- Likely to have a gap in the financial side after doing the skills audit of new trustees. Potentially lots of people who want to do something in their retirement that might be able to help
- Explore co-opting or recruiting trustees with specific expertise
- Need to diversity our trustees in terms of specialty area too (people tend to vote for their own)
- We have agreed to have a big drive on potential new members (particularly non-doctor organisations) between now and the end of the year
- We can co-opt trustees according to skills gaps. We could advertise for this and recruit.
- Could go for a finance person right now. RS and EM to take this away
- Repeat exercise once we have new members

Actions:

- RS/EM to discuss recruitment of a finance person to be co-opted to the executive committee

11. Voting regulations

The current regulations limit election of trustees to one vote per member at the AGM, and for the chair to have the deciding vote in the event of a tie. Keep as it is.

Use single transferable vote next time

Actions:

- Single transferable vote system to be used next year.

12. Adaptation report: scope

The first meeting of the adaptation policy working group met in July. The aim and scope of the report agreed by the working group are:

Aim

To produce a policy report and recommendations for the governments of the UK and the NHS to adapt to the health impacts of climate change and ensure climate resilience.

Scope

Adaptation measures to protect health from the impacts of climate change. Areas covered to include: heat, infectious disease, extreme weather, food insecurity

Health system resilience. Areas covered to include: infrastructure, care pathway, supply chain and inequalities

The trustees approved the aim and scope subject to migration to be added to the list of areas to be covered

Actions:

- AP/EM to add migration to list of areas to be covered in the scope of the adaptation report

13. Food policy report

The final draft of the food policy report was shared with the trustees prior to the meeting. The report was reviewed by TK and RG and recommended for approval to the committee.

SM advised that ICS were unable to approve the report as they are currently debating this issue. The remainder of trustees present agreed to approve the report, therefore by majority the report was approved by the committee.

It was noted that there are specific clinical considerations that need to be considered - not for people who have specific dietary needs on intensive care or with metabolic disorders. AP clarified the report recommends plant-based first but with exceptions for specific patients. AP will ensure this is clear in the report. This is what the report currently says: It is a strategic practice that ensures freedom of choice is maintained and takes into account that patients with special dietary requirements are not restricted.

Actions:

- AP to review line clarifying dietary needs of some patients

14. RCOG/RCM SBRI maternity project

RT presented an update on the work of RCOG and their SBRI project. The [presentation slides can be viewed here](#).

RT was congratulated on the leadership she has shown and the work RCOG has done in this area.

It was agreed UKHACC should promote the Green Maternity Challenge in our newsletter. RT will send the details.

RT offered to do what she can to influence Royal College of Midwives to join UKHACC

Actions:

- AP/EM to promote Green Maternity Challenge in our newsletter and social media channels (RT to send the details)
- RT to speak to colleagues at Royal College of Midwives about joining UKHACC

15. Partnership request

We have been asked to partner a conference and concert on 'A financial solution to climate injustice'. Partnership requires us to be named on promotional communications about the event and for us to agree to share information about the event with our members, and guarantee our members will also cascade the details to their members. The conference was initially planned to be held at RCP but has now been moved to RSA. The event is scheduled to take place in September and we have not been involved in putting the programme together or organising the event. We would not be in a position to instruct members to promote the event. EM has been copied into inappropriate and rude emails from the event organiser to staff in another external organisation.

The trustees agreed UKHACC should not be listed as a partner for the event but could share information in the newsletter.

Actions:

- EM to advise the event organiser that UKHACC will not be a partner of the event.

16. Risk register

The [risk register](#) was shared prior to the meeting.

17. Any other business

We have been asked to support the Stop Rosebank court case campaign.

Here is the website: <https://www.stopcambo.org.uk/courtcase>

Here is what being a supporter means:

"Your support in no way implicates you legally or financially in any of these proceedings. We will keep you informed about court case developments via email, so please ensure the email you put here is the best way to contact you. (Your name will not appear on the website, just that of your organisation). By sending this form, including your logo, you confirm that you have the authority of your organisation to give your organisational support for this case, and give permission for your name and logo to appear on this website."

Background

- The previous government approved the Rosebank field in September 2023.
- Uplift and Greenpeace immediately launched a legal challenge on the basis the government did not take into account emissions produced from the burning of oil and gas (only emissions produced to get oil and gas out of the ground was included in environmental assessment).

- Last month, in another case, the UK court found in favour of another development brought to court on the same ground - laying precedent for the same to happen with Rosebank.
- If the Rosebank challenge is successful, the government will need to reconsider approval of Rosebank. This provides an open door for Rosebank to be stopped.
- The campaign is trying to get as many organisations as possible to list as supporters and very keen to get trusted health voices on there to build political currency and make it easier for the government to say no

Actions

- EM to share details about the Stop Rosebank campaign with trustees and any objections to be notified by 5pm Friday 9 August

Extending AP contract

AP left the meeting.

It was proposed the additional £14,400 income as a consequence of the Health Foundation accounting error should be used to extend the policy officer, AP, contract for six months. Her current contract expires in December. This would allow us to extend it to June 2025 and give her some job security. All agreed AP is an asset to UKHACC and that we should offer an extension on her contract.

Action:

- EM to issue letter of change to contract to AP regarding extending her contract by a further six months

18. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held online at 14.30-16.30 Thursday 12 September 2024