



Minutes of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change Executive Committee

Held online 8 February 2024, 14.30-16.30

Present: Rose Gallagher (RCN), Terry Kemple (RCGP), Elaine Mulcahy (Director; UKHACC), Richard Smith (Chair; UKHACC), Emma Radcliffe (GP), Sandy Mather (ICS), Anandita Pattnaik (UKHACC), Liz Marder (RCPCH), Eleanor Roaf (FPH)

Apologies for absence: Juliet Dobson (BMJ), Jacob Kranowski (RCPsych)

Summary of actions:

- EM to follow up with Nicky Philpott at Greener NHS regarding question on GP practices > DONE
- Send manifesto to all climate change representatives of political parties and request a meeting > ON AGENDA
- EM follow up with BMJ regarding the net zero clinical care conference in 2024 > DONE
- EM/AP to update on parliamentary events when more details are available > DONE
- ER will feedback on suggestions for positively managing reserves based on evidence from her own practice
- Budget session to be offered to trustees once the accountant has reviewed it on xero > WAITING FOR REVIEW BY ACCOUNTANTS (DUE 8 MAR)
- Paper on bank switching to be prepared for council meeting > DONE
- Feedback on dinner to be added to the council agenda > DONE
- Breakout groups to be added to the council agenda after presentation on changing our name > DONE
- The endorsement policy is to be adopted and placed on our website > DONE
- A form for submitting endorsement requests is to be created and placed on the website > DONE
- A list of requests, products reviewed, endorsements, and date for further review should be created > CARRY FORWARD
- RS/EM to explore options for including patient groups in UKHACC > LETTER TO PATIENT GROUPS TO BE DRAFTED
- ER to share report on patient engagement on sustainability > DONE
- AP to speak to Sustainability Partnership and Shireen Kassam regarding potential funding partnerships and resource required to deliver the hospital food project
DONE
- EM/AP to report back to trustees on resource impact of proposed food project > EM TO UPDATE
- RS/EM continue to reach out to potential In Conversation speakers and set up sessions > ONGOING
- EM to share the template letter to trusts on our website > DONE
- EM to respond to the request regarding SMF partnership with BP > DONE
- RS/EM going to talk about policy on sickness and resignation for the risk register > DONE (Detailed handover notes and process to be developed)

- Arrows to be added to the risk register > CARRIED FORWARD
- EM to send HF installation to members > DONE

1. Welcome from the Chair

RS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minute from the January meeting

The minute from the January meeting was accepted.

Updates on actions from the last meeting:

EM met with the accountant (Milsted Langdon) to get advice on accounting processes. The following was agreed:

- ML will provide a quote for producing our tax return (due 31 December 2024)
- ML will provide a quote for producing our account report for the charity commission (due October 2024). A draft set of accounts will be submitted to the trustees for review and approval by August 2024.
- ML will review our use of xero to ensure all items are being inputted correctly, that reconciliations and invoices are being processed accurately. They will advise on any corrections and/or improvements needed
- ML will review the 2024 budget and advise on best allocation of income and expenditure and reporting. They will also advise on best way to allocate reserve funds.
- We have been appointed a new point of contact who will act as a support for UKHACC

SM is meeting with the Faculty of Intensive Care on Tuesday and will raise joining UKHACC with them at that meeting

RS met with Andy Haines (Pathfinder). Pathfinder is not going to produce an annual report, but regular papers, the focus will be more global than the UK. UKHACC will keep close links with the project. RS and EM are meeting with the team in March.

TK and ER met with UCL regarding the MOOC we have been asked to endorse. They have registered but the programme has not started yet. They will review once it has.

ER advised that Columbia University is running a good series of webinars on climate change and health impacts.

RS contacted BMA to ask what they were doing in relation to doctors who have been arrested. They responded that legal issues are generally handled by the defence societies. BMA does have a campaign for improving the fitness to practice process with the GMC.

Action:

- EM to follow up with Nicky Philpott at Greener NHS regarding question on GP practices

3. January Director's report

The January Director's report was shared prior to the meeting. The layout of the report has been shortened as it was getting a bit long and difficult to read. The new format includes key links and points under each of the actions listed in the operational plan where work has been delivered.

Key points highlighted:

Meetings with political parties

RS and EM were invited to a meeting with the Shadow Climate Change Minister Kerry McCarthy on 29 February following our letter to Ed Miliband regarding Rosebank. [Hope for the Future](#) have offered to provide guidance and advice for managing the meeting, setting key asks and a positive outcome.

It was agreed that we should send our manifesto and request meetings with the Climate Change representatives of all parties.

Policy working groups

There has been a very good response to our policy working groups.

- The fossil fuel group had its first meeting on 6 February with an aim to publish the report on 5 June. Members of the group are: RCP, RCPCH, RCPsych, FPH, PHRC
- The food systems group will have its first meeting on 29 February with an aim to publish the report in October. Members of the group are: RVCS, PBHP, RCOG, BAPEN
- We plan to have the first meeting of the Adaptation group in June/July with an aim to publish a report in January/February 2025.

Spokesperson network

Monthly briefing sessions have been set up for the climate and health spokesperson network. The network also update on their activities at these meetings and this is now being recorded. The schedule of briefings for the network is:

- January: How health professionals can get involved with Clean Air Night (Global Action Plan)
- February: How to use the Local Intelligence Hub to find out about your MPs climate record (The Climate Coalition)
- March: Dealing with trolls (Communications expert, Impact on Urban Health)
- April: Speaking to MPs/candidates/councillors (Hope for the future)

It was clarified that the network speak in their own capacity and not speaking on behalf of UKHACC. The terms of reference can be [viewed here](#).

We are not aware of any further progress with the spokesperson network that Wellcome was setting up.

Parliamentary event

Marina Romanello from Lancet Countdown has been in contact with the APPG on Climate Change regarding an event to present our policy brief. The APPG has indicated they are interested but yet to confirm dates.

EM/AP met with Peers for the Planet this week. They are very interested in holding an event at the House of Lords and currently exploring dates and a potential sponsor for this event. It is likely this will be in March.

Net Zero Clinical Care conference

There has not been an update on whether this conference will go ahead again in 2024. Greener NHS have confirmed they will not be able to fund it this year. BMJ were exploring options for funding the conference. EM to follow up what stage this is at.

Actions are:

- Send manifesto to all climate change representatives of political parties and request a meeting
- EM follow up with BMJ regarding the net zero clinical care conference in 2024
- EM/AP to update on parliamentary events when more details are available

4. Budget update

The January 2024 budget variance report was shared prior to the meeting. The committee agreed the variance report is not useful. The balance sheet would be more useful. EM has asked the accountant for advice on reporting.

On the variance report, subscriptions (expenditure) appears overspent by £5480. This is related to a credit note issued to RSM related to cancellation of their membership. It cancels out the invoice that had been issued to them.

The accountant will advise on the best way to record the reserve funds to cover redundancies. ER suggested there might be a way to use the reserve to demonstrate something positive. She is looking into this with her GP practice and will feedback.

An individual session on the budget will be offered to trustees (TK, RG, SM) once the accountant has had a chance to review it.

Actions:

- ER will feedback on managing reserves based on evidence from her own practice
- Budget session to be offered to trustees once the accountant has reviewed it on xero

5. Council agenda

A draft agenda for the March council meeting was shared prior to the meeting and discussed.

It was agreed that bank switching is an area that we should continue to develop. RCOG and RCGP have been approached by their members about this. There are challenges for large organisations changing bank, particularly when they have international members. Both providing advice for individual members and organisations have a place. It was agreed that having it as a discussion as part of the commitments works well. It would be good to have a paper and follow up after the meeting.

Feedback from the dinner taking place the evening before should be added to the agenda.

It was agreed that we should aim to have breakout groups following the presentation about changing our name, with groups discussing and then feeding back.

The trustees Climate Fresk session will take place in the morning from 9.30-12.30. RCOG has provided costs for providing lunch (for trustees) and tea/coffee/biscuits. The costs are:

- Deli sandwich lunch (1.5 rounds, tortilla chips + dip, fruit bowl) £18 per person
- Tea/coffee/biscuits £5 per serving

There is also a cafeteria downstairs and plenty of cafes close by. It was agreed it would be good to leave the meeting room and get out somewhere to go for lunch, but we should aim to do this together.

Actions:

- Paper on bank switching to be prepared for council meeting
- Feedback on dinner to be added to the council agenda
- Breakout groups to be added to the council agenda after presentation on changing our name

6. Endorsement policy for educational content

A draft endorsement policy was shared prior to the meeting. It was agreed this policy should be adopted.

A process for endorsement will need to be created. RCGP and RCN forms are good examples that we can replicate.

If we do review and/or endorse any content, we should keep a list of what we are endorsing and set a date for review.

It was agreed endorsement is a good way to get our name onto good products to increase our brand recognition.

Each endorsement is considered on a case by case basis. We could ask for trustees to be paid for review time related to endorsement when products are profit making.

Actions:

- The endorsement policy is to be adopted and placed on our website
- A form for submitting endorsement requests is to be created and placed on the website
- A list of requests, products reviewed, endorsements, and date for further review should be created

7. Potential members

An updated potential members list was shared prior to the meeting.

RS met with the council of the Faculty of Medical Leadership and Management. They are interested in joining and going to discuss further.

RS highlighted that personal contacts are the most effective approach.

A question was asked about reaching out to a patient organisation and asking them to consider joining and/or to have a patient representative on the board of trustees.

Trustees indicated they thought it would be good to include patients as it changes the dynamic of discussion in a useful way and that it's important to include patients in the conversation about climate change.

RS/EM agreed to explore possibilities and options.

ER offered to share a report on patient engagement on sustainability that was done by Sussex Health and Care Partnerships.

Actions:

- RS/EM to explore options for including patient groups in UKHACC
- ER to share report on patient engagement on sustainability

8. Hospital food campaign

Following discussion at the previous meeting, an updated proposal for a hospital food project was shared with the trustees. AP outlined the proposed actions:

- Partner with sustainability partnership on Sustainability Day of Action in the NHS to encourage hospitals and trusts to have a plant-based day as part of this
- Assess the patient/staff insights gained from the day of action

EM/AP met with the Sustainability Partnership last week to discuss the day of action. They are supportive of a plant-based initiative as part of this and believe they would be able to get funding for it from some of their corporate sponsors. They had mentioned quorn among other groups. The trustees agreed we need to be mindful about the source of funding and it would be better if it came from a range of companies, or ones offering whole foods. AP will follow up with Shireen Kassam who coordinated the plant-based day at Kings College Hospital and is also a member of the Planetary Health Hub.

Sustainability Partnership is UK wide. They have been doing this for over ten years in the NHS and it is a well established event connected with over 200 trusts.

Trustees were concerned about the resource required for this project. EM/AP to further discuss what would be required from UKHACC in terms of resource to deliver this and bring this back to the trustees for approval. A project on developing recommendations is included in the operational plan subject to funding.

Action:

- AP to speak to Sustainability Partnership and Shireen Kassam regarding potential funding partnerships and resource required to deliver this
- EM/AP to report back to trustees on resource impact

9. General Election strategy and manifesto

The election manifesto was published on 7 February and actions in the strategy are now underway.

RS/EM/AP had a meeting with VoteClimate, which is a platform that people sign up to and it will then advise them on which way to vote for the candidate with the best climate policies. This is something UKHACC cannot support as we are non-partisan.

10. In Conversation speakers

An updated list of invited and potential speakers for the In Conversation webinar series was shared prior to the meeting.

We have written twice to Chris Skidmore but not had a response. We received an automated response from Kate Raworth's office saying if we haven't heard within three weeks assume it's no.

The interview with Tony Meggs takes place on 14 February: RS will interview and then open to participants. Trustees asked to send in questions in advance.

Action:

- RS/EM continue to reach out to potential In Conversation speakers and set up sessions

11. Letter to NHS trusts

A template letter for individuals to use when writing to NHS trusts in support of health professionals undergoing disciplinary action as a result of nonviolent action was discussed. It was agreed this letter should be shared on our website for people to use.

RS has communicated with the individual who was disciplined by his trust. He appeared in court with his colleague. He had pleaded guilty, his colleague pleaded not-guilty. They had thrown paint at an object in the National History Museum. His colleague got off as the prosecution had no case as there was no long term damage.

Action:

- EM to share the template letter to trusts on our website

12. NHS carbon footprint feedback

It is good practice for the NHS and every other organisation to declare a carbon footprint annually. Greener NHS produced a figure in 2021. This year they reported they were on track but the carbon footprint is embedded in appendix 5 of the annual report. It is possible that decarbonisation of the grid accounts for a significant portion of the reduction.

It was agreed that UKHACC should write to the Chief Sustainability Officer and CEO of the NHS to request more visibility and a better breakdown, highlighting the need to be demonstrating they are making progress and if not making progress to be transparent about it.

Action:

- RS/EM to draft letter to NHS regarding declaring their carbon footprint

13. Speaking out against organisations that partner with oil and gas companies

UKHACC was approached by a health professional seeking support in calling for the Social Mobility Foundation to cease its partnership with BP. Background information is available [here](#).

It was agreed that this fell outwith the scope of the purpose of UKHACC and it would not be appropriate to get involved.

Action:

- EM to respond to the request regarding SMF partnership with BP

14. Register of interests

It was suggested we should consider presenting the conflicts of interest at the beginning of every meeting to assess whether there are any conflicts with items on the agenda. Trustee Conflicts of Interest statements have been saved in a shared folder and on the website.

15. Risk register

The risk register was shared prior to the meeting.

Actions:

- RS/EM going to talk about policy on sickness and resignation
- Arrows to be added to the risk register

16. Any other business

RS attended a Health Foundation installation intended to prompt discussion about the NHS. HF has offered to do one for our members on the morning of 29 February if we are interested. It is a series of rooms, set in 2036 incorporating a patient's living room, board meeting of NHS trust, phone consultations, and facilitated discussions. We will send an invitation.

Our SBRI applications were not successful. ICS did have a successful bid to produce a recipe book on low carbon food.

Actions:

- EM to send HF installation to members

17. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held online at 14.30-16.30 Thursday 14 March 2024