



## **Minutes of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change Executive Committee**

Held online 11 January 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), Emma Radcliffe (GP), Sandy Mather (ICS), Anandita Pattnaik (UKHACC), Liz Marder (RCPCH), Eleanor Roaf (FPH),

**Apologies for absence:** Ranee Thakar (RCOG)

### **Summary of actions:**

- RS to take forward actions on letter to trusts and contacting the BMA > DONE
- EM to follow up with Nicky Philpott regarding information on greener practice and net zero targets > FOLLOW UP EMAIL SENT (AWAITING RESPONSE)
- EM/RS to meet with Health Foundation > CHASER EMAIL SENT
- ER to speak to contacts at Association for Directors of Public Health regarding joining UKHACC > DONE
- EM to finalise BGS joining process > DONE
- EM/RS to arrange introductory meeting with BGS
- End of year report promotion actions:
  - Publish the end of year report on the website > DONE
  - Share on social media > DONE
  - Share in the Director's Update email > DONE
  - Ask members to share with their members > DONE
  - Share with stakeholders and contacts
  - Add link to email footers
- EM to meet with accountants to discuss budget set up and reporting in xero with follow up for exec committee > MEETING SCHEDULED 6 FEB
- EM/RS to produce template letter for trustees to share with potential member contacts regarding joining > DONE
- SM to contact Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine regarding interest in joining > DONE
- RG to contact Healthcare Infection Society and British Society for Antimicrobial Pathology regarding interest in joining > DONE
- EM/RS to prioritise and contact organisations on current potential members list > DONE
- RS/EM to update the draft manifesto and circulate with the committee for approval > DONE
- EM to produce a timeline for delivery of the strategy > DONE
- RS/EM to include measure of what success looks like > DONE
- RS to invite Lea Berrang Ford as a guest at the March In Conversation webinar > DONE
- RS to invite Chris Stark for a future In Conversation webinar > DONE
- ERoa to invite James Roaf, IMF climate change lead to speak at an In Conversation webinar > DONE

- RS/EM to identify and invite potential speaker for March council meeting > DONE
- EM to circulate calendar invite for Climate Fresk and request space at RCOG prior to the council meeting > DONE
- EM to follow up with HughM team regarding dinner confirmed guests > DONE
- EM to send dinner invites to exec committee members > DONE
- EM/AP/RS to revise the draft letter on hospital food > ON AGENDA
- AP/EM to complete the application process for UNFCCC observer status > IN PROGRESS
- COI forms to be linked from the individual trustee bios on the website > DONE
- Add arrow indicator to the risk register show if the risk is the same, getting worse, or better
- EM to connect ERad and TK to MPS regarding MOOC review and endorsement > DONE

## **1. Welcome from the Chair**

RS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **2. Minute from the December meeting**

The minute from the December meeting was accepted.

### Updates on actions from the last meeting:

1. We received a response from Climate and Health Scorecard that they are planning to publish at the end of March and it will include 2022 and 23 data. They will also extract data for our members and the Commitments.
2. RS has still to produce the letter to NHS trusts related to doctors convicted for action linked to climate protests who are facing disciplinary action. Some clarity on what was to be produced was discussed. Following this discussion, it was agreed RS will:
  - a) Draft a generic letter that could be available for people to point to on our website with a contact email for people seeking support;
  - b) Draft a letter specifically related to the existing case highlighted;
  - c) Ask BMA if they are aware of specific cases. It was suggested the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare might be able to help with raising awareness as they have produced educational content on this. We are not aware of any nurses currently facing disciplinary action in this area.
3. RSM membership has been cancelled following an initial request by them to freeze membership for a year. RS wrote to the President and CEO to reconsider. We received a response that it was a difficult decision for RSM but they will stick with it.
4. At the previous meeting, Nicky Philpott from Greener NHS agreed to feedback about general practice and net zero targets. We have not yet received this. EM to follow up.
5. EM is meeting with Gen Cameron from the Health Foundation in January to discuss close out of the Green Surgery project. At this meeting we will also discuss options regarding future funding of new projects and how we might progress with a request.

6. RS is meeting with Any Haines from Pathfinder to understand how we can incorporate their work with ours
7. RS recently attended a meeting of Westminster City Council - they have 17 people working on climate change. RS spoke on the role of local authorities and the importance of their work and influence. It was suggested it would be good for UKHACC to strengthen links with local authorities. It might be worth approaching the Local Government Association to join as there is an opportunity for us to pull in the voice of health professional and greener NHS, community care to local action. Every local authority has a director of public health. ER can speak to the lead of the Association of Directors of Public Health. They also have a Healthy Places group which ER sits on. ER will also speak to the chair of this group.  
<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/sustainability-hub>

Action:

- RS to take forward actions on letter to trusts and contacting the BMA
- EM to follow up with Nicky Philpott regarding information on greener practice and net zero targets
- EM/RS to meet with Health Foundation
- ER to speak to contacts at Association for Directors of Public Health regarding joining UKHACC

### **3. New member approval**

An application to join was received from the British Geriatrics Society. The Executive Committee approved the application. RS and EM will arrange an introductory meeting.

Action:

- EM to finalise BGS joining process
- EM/RS to arrange introductory meeting with BGS

### **4. End of year Report**

The End of Year report was shared prior to the meeting. It was agreed this is a very useful document for promoting the work of UKHACC and should be shared as widely as possible.

Actions are:

- Publish the end of year report on the website
- Share on social media
- Share in the Director's Update email
- Ask members to share with their members
- Share on social media
- Share with stakeholders and contacts
- Add link to email footers

### **5. Budget update**

The 2023 budget variance and end of year balance sheet were shared prior to the meeting.

Income was higher than budgeted due to:

- Higher subscriptions income due to new members joining during 2023
- Higher grant income due to increase in Health Foundation grant during the year

Expenditure was lower than budgeted due to:

- Policy Officer role salary reduced for three months due to sabbatical with WHO
- Salary oncosts significantly lower with UKHACC (Apr-Dec) compared to previously with BMJ (Jan-Mar), which is what was originally budgeted
- 'General expenses' appear significantly underspent, but the majority of this is accounted for in other lines which were originally not budgeted for (e.g. travel, bank fees, accounting fees). This will be rectified in the 2024 budget.
- There was an underspend of £10,000 in the Green Surgery project which has been carried forward to 2024

The 2024 budget was shared prior to the meeting. A balanced budget was presented with a target of an additional £8,000 from new members in 2024.

EM has requested a meeting with the accountants for advice on inputting data into xero to ensure accuracy and best format for reporting, and how best to allocate the reserve.

Once this meeting has taken place, EM to talk through the budget with members of the exec who wish to have greater clarity.

It was agreed a monthly line by line budget against cost to ensure clarity on whether we are on track or not would be useful.

Actions:

- EM to meet with accountants to discuss budget set up and reporting in xero with follow up for exec committee

## **6. Potential members**

A list of potential members to approach regarding joining UKHACC was shared prior to the meeting.

It was agreed that members of the committee who have contacts within the organisations on the list, should approach their contacts to ask them about joining the Alliance.

A draft letter for sharing with contacts including the end of year/impact report and information about being a member should be made available to committee members to ensure we have a consistent message.

Following an expression of interest, the usual process is an introductory email with the Chair and Director followed by sending them the application form. Trustees are asked to approach their contacts and extend an offer to arrange a meeting with the Chair and Director.

SM advised she will reach out to Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine  
RG advised she will reach out to Healthcare Infection Society and British Society for Antimicrobial Pathology

It was suggested that patient/citizen organisations might be good groups for us to connect to. Care professionals should also be added to the list. British Heart Foundation, British Diabetic Association, Patient Association, Cancer Research UK are other organisations that we could reach out to, but this would take us beyond our existing membership of health professionals only.

Small specialty groups will also be members of the parent organisation and might object to paying twice.

The aim is to get up to 60 members by the end of the year. We should prioritise who we contact.

#### Actions:

- EM/RS to produce template letter for trustees to share with potential member contacts regarding joining
- SM to contact Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine regarding interest in joining
- RG to contact Healthcare Infection Society and British Society for Antimicrobial Pathology regarding interest in joining
- EM/RS to prioritise and contact organisations on current potential members list

### **7. General Election strategy and manifesto**

A draft general election manifesto was shared prior to the meeting and discussed by the committee. Points noted were:

- Short, pithy headline phrases will be more impactful. The document should have memorable points people can take away. Need to keep it short with references to in house and external work. Two pages would be best. Key evocative points that will get people's attention.
- Transition from fossil fuels should be amended to 'just transition to fossil fuels', also highlighting the opportunity of transition to re-employ people in energy sector
- 'Protect the NHS' evokes the pandemic. 'Sustain the NHS' might be more appropriate. This should also be extended to include social care.
- In the section on NHS need to raise importance of adaptation - making more point of adapting the NHS for the future and also security of the supply chain
- Active transport/exercise has not been included and seems to be an omission. Clean air is referenced but not very prominent. Amending the 'access to nature' point to shift the focus more to 'healthy living environments' that includes infrastructure, active transport, housing, access to green space as a whole would be preferable. A government that makes it easier for people to live healthier lives
- The asks and needs of clinical staff is for stronger national green teams - people looking to greener nhs team for guidance and leadership. There is a case for calling for the national Greener NHS teams to be strengthened (relevant to all UK countries under their different titles)
- The words 'problem' and 'solution' should be changed to 'background/context' and 'recommendations/we advocate for'

A draft strategy for general election campaign activity was shared prior to the meeting and discussed by the committee. Points noted were:

- We should try again with webinars as we get closer to the election to get people from the parties that we can question about what are their policies
- Be prepared to respond to events (e.g. heatwaves)
- Haven't had success in writing letters to newspapers, we should aim to do this more and constantly looking out for opportunities
- Webinar on six points - covering the five manifesto points, plus a sixth
- Prioritise elements of the strategy with a timeframe working towards autumn would be useful.
- How do we measure the impact? 'we will have been successful if'
- Ability to influence limited once we get into purdah (six weeks before the election)

#### Action:

- RS/EM to update the draft manifesto and circulate with the committee for approval
- EM to produce a timeline for delivery of the strategy
- RS/EM to include measure of what success looks like

## 8. In Conversation speakers

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

Two speakers are confirmed:

Tony Meggs on fossil fuel companies, energy and the climate and nature crisis on 14 February and Simon Stevens on the Greener NHS Programme on 8 May.

The committee was asked to reach out to any contacts they have and to share any thoughts for potential speakers.

Lea Berrang Ford might be a good person for the March webinar.

Chris Stark leaving CCC announced today to run Carbon Brief instead.

The lead for Climate Change at the International Monetary Fund was suggested. ER to extend invitation.

### Action:

- RS to invite Lea Berrang Ford as a guest at the March In Conversation webinar
- RS to invite Chris Stark for a future In Conversation webinar
- ER to invite IMF climate change lead to speak at an In Conversation webinar

## 9. Hospital food campaign

Health professionals from the planetary health coalition approached UKHACC to ask if we might lead in a campaign to inspire and influence hospitals and trusts to move faster in transitioning to healthy, sustainably sourced menus for staff and patients.

EM and AP met with the net zero food lead from Greener NHS and have requested information on what progress has been made to date. We are not aware of a specific strategy for transitioning hospital food to healthier, and more plant-based alternatives. Work has been progressing on waste reduction and the development of a toolkit which has been piloted. We have requested further details.

A paper was shared with the committee prior to the meeting and presented by EM. Points discussed were:

- Bigger role in getting to healthcare professionals - this about getting to everyone's diet and NHS has a key role in this
- We should take a stand on this
- Should we be concentrating on hospitals? Something about doing something about what's in the hospital's control
- David Mackelvy - passionate about this and committed to get something on hospital food
- AP was recently invited to Kings College plant-based lunch for staff and patients and everyone was surprised what was available. Resources available but force needed from higher up
- Important to know who is doing the catering and providing. Could we approach the caterers as a way to be supportive? Sudexo is the main supplier.
- Example of a green plan:  
<https://www.northeastlondonhcp.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/NEL-ICS-Green-Plan-2022-25.pdf>

It was agreed this is a project that we should aim to take forward but that wording of the letter and pledge needs further review.

Action:

- EM/RS to revise the draft letter on hospital food

## **10. COP28 insights and recommendations**

Anandita Pattnaik had an opportunity to travel to COP28 thanks to a sponsored place provided by the Global Climate and Health Alliance (GCHA). A paper summarising her experience and recommendations for UKHACC to take forward were shared prior to the meeting and presented by AP.

Following her experience AP recommended UKHACC should join UNFCCC because:

- There is a huge gap in people understand the health angle of climate change
- These meetings are a good opportunity to showcase UKHACC work
- They provide an opportunity for funders to see our work

RS advised that UKHACC has applied for observer status in the past (COP26) but was not successful. It is also likely we might not attend meetings in far away locations due to high carbon and financial cost.

FPH has observer status and although didn't attend in person were able to join COP28 meetings virtually with their observer status and had access to meetings that they would not otherwise have.

Application to be an observer is free and it is in a lifetime membership so may provide an opportunity in the future. No obligation to attend but might be useful to have.

Action:

- AP/EM to complete the application process for UNFCCC observer status

## **11. 2024 Council meetings**

2024 UKHACC Council meetings are scheduled to take place on the following dates:

2-5pm 21 March: In person at RCOG  
Speaker to be confirmed

EM advised that following previous discussion Chris Newman has agreed to deliver a Climate Fresk for the Executive Committee prior to the Council meeting. The Fresk takes about 3 hours.

The Hugh Montgomery hosted dinner at RCP will take place on the evening before. The exec committee advised that they have not received invitations specific to them and asked if they should attend.

EM will follow up with Hugh Montgomery's team regarding numbers that have confirmed and extending invitations to the exec committee.

2-5pm 26 September: Venue to be confirmed  
Speaker to be confirmed

Action:

- RS/EM to identify and invite potential speaker for March meeting
- EM to circulate calendar invite for Climate Fresk and request space at RCOG prior to the council meeting
- EM to follow up with HughM team regarding dinner confirmed guests

- EM to send dinner invites to exec committee members

## **12. Register of interests**

Trustee Conflicts of Interest statements have been saved in a shared folder. It was agreed these should be made available from the website to ensure transparency.

### Actions:

- COI forms to be linked from the individual trustee bios on the website

## **13. Risk register**

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

### Actions:

- Add arrow indicator to the risk register show if the risk is the same, getting worse, or better

## **14. Any other business**

### MOOC on environmental sustainability

Last year, EM and RS met with an academic at UCL who had been commissioned to develop a MOOC on environmental sustainability. It will launch on the Future Learn platform at the end of January. The lead author, Manu Priya Sharma has asked if UKHACC might consider endorsing the MOOC. She has offered to meet online to run through the different sections. ER and TK volunteered to review the content to determine whether it is suitable for UKHACC endorsement.

Action: EM to connect ER and TK to MPS regarding MOOC review and endorsement

## **15. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held online at 14.30-16.30 Thursday 8 February 2024