



Minutes of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change Executive Committee

Held online 16 January 2025, 10.30-12.30

Present: Jill Belch (RCPE), Juliet Dobson (BMJ), Rose Gallagher (RCN), Jacob Kranowski (RCPsych), Rodney Morton (FNF), Elaine Mulcahy (Director, UKHACC), Emma Radcliffe (GP), Richard Smith (Chair, UKHACC), Eleanor Roaf (FPH)

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

Summary of actions:

- EM to collate conflicts of interest into single shared document that trustees can update as required > Done
- RS to write to AP on behalf of trustees to congratulate and thank her > Done
- EM to organise contributions to a leaving gift for AP > Done
- EM to notify members of BSLM joining UKHACC and finalise the joining process > Done
- EM to provide access to access management document and passwords to RS, ERoaf and ERad > Done
- ERad to contact Andy Stevenson regarding BOA leaving
- RS/EM to update wording on letter to leaving members to reflect comments > Done
- Discussion on potential of pulling together educational content with CSH and others
- RS/EM to update the letter to PM to include specific asks > Done
- EM to publish the PM's letter and the response on our website > Done
- Use the PM's letter in highlighting the impact of our work > Ongoing
- Budget to be updated with updated reserve calculation and positioning of reserve line on the budget > Half done
- 2024 end of year report to be finalised and shared widely > Done
- EM confirm participation in The Climate Coalition mass lobby > Done
- EM to connect RG with RCP group to confirm representation on advisory committee > Done
- Suggestions for potential future UKHACC chairs to be sent to EM > Ongoing
- RS/EM to consider process for co-opting a finance person to the executive committee > Done
- Encourage members to register to join the meeting and share opportunity to join online to others within their organisations > Done
- Update the council agenda to include a breakout session on our commitments > Done
- Improved onboarding process for new trustees to be developed in time for the next election in September 2025
- RS to follow up with Patrick Hart regarding interviewing him in relation to his actions and conviction > Done

- RS/EM to produce proposal for the Health Foundation call to tender with support of ERoaf and ERad > Done
- JB to inform GMC chair that UKHACC will be writing to them to ask about joining > Done
- RS to write to the GMC to ask about joining > Done
- Discussion on categories of membership for organisations to be discussed at a future meeting > On agenda
- JB will reach out to a contact on the board of the British Society of Rheumatology
- EM to update the risk register to reflect director absence management document now in place and reduced income due to members leaving > Done
- Time for longer discussion on the risk register to take place at the next meeting > On agenda
- RS/EM to connect ERoaf with Alice Clack regarding public health campaign > Done
- EM to update calendar invite for April exec committee meeting > Done

1. Welcome from the Chair

RS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Conflicts of interest

No conflicts related to the meeting agenda were noted.

It was agreed that the individual COI documents should be pulled into a single document for ease of reviewing at future meetings

Actions:

- EM to collate risk register into single shared document that trustees can update as required

3. Minute from the December meeting

The minute from the December meeting was accepted.

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

- JB has written to the Vascular Society and is waiting to hear back. The Scottish Cardiac Society has asked for a copy of the annual report which JB will send when the final version is available
- JB will contact Andrew Prince at RSM
- JB has not had a chance to follow up with RCSEd but will do this
- JB has been working on updating the ten year plan to the Scottish context
- A meeting to review work of MHRA is being scheduled - Fiona Adshead has put herself forward to speak at the meeting

4. Staff update

Policy Officer Anandita Pattnaik has resigned from her position to take up a new role with Asthma+Lung UK. Her last day of work with UKHACC will be 14 February but she has agreed to continue to work on a consultancy basis to finalise the adaptation policy report by April 2025.

Trustees expressed their congratulations and thanks to Anandita.

Actions:

- RS to write to AP on behalf of trustees to congratulate and thank her
- EM to organise contributions to a leaving gift for AP

5. New member approval: British Society of Lifestyle Medicine

The trustees reviewed and approved an application to join from the British Society of Lifestyle Medicine.

Actions:

- EM to notify members of BSLM joining UKHACC and finalise the joining process.

6. December Director's report

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

- We submitted our response to the consultation on scope 3 emissions from oil and gas. The submission was reviewed by legal advisors at UPlift, the organisation behind the Rosebank legal challenge. They informed us that we were the only organisation they knew of raising the point about health impacts to be considered in scope 3 emissions
- We have submitted a proposal to the NHS Confederation to hold a session at their annual conference on health system adaptation
- We wrote to the Health and Social Care Committee asking for an inquiry into health system resilience from the threat of climate change
- JP highlighted need to highlight wildfire risk in the UK, particularly Scotland and Peak District. Also increased concern around midges on the spread of infectious diseases. And water pollution and impact on waterways is also an issue. Potential use of LC data to draw out detail of wildfires.

7. Director absence management document - trustee access

EM has produced a document with instructions and information to maintain continuity of UKHACC work in the event of her suddenly being unable to work for a prolonged period. RS has been provided access to the document and passwords. ERoaf and ERad agreed to also have access.

Actions:

- EM to provide access to access management document and passwords to RS, ERoaf and ERad

8. Member subscriptions renewals and leavers

Three organisations have cancelled their membership of UKHACC:

- Association of Anaesthetists
- Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
- British Orthopaedic Association

All indicated that financial resource was a reason for their decision to leave UKHACC. BOA has also indicated that more focused work on the health sector would be their preference.

Eleven other organisations have not paid their subscription fees. All were emailed on Monday 13 January with an overdue invoice notification requesting prompt payment.

It was agreed that further follow up was needed with a direct letter to the President/CEO of these organisations. A draft letter was shared prior to the meeting and discussed.

Points noted were:

- Change wording on paragraph about risk of individual members leaving as it may not be well received
- Introducing mandatory education - It was suggested we could pull together a slide base template for the NHS to use in mandatory training. This might address concern from members related to lack of health sector engagement. We should explore this further. FPH has been doing work on CPD evidence in their curriculum. Could be a lot of pieces of existing work that could be pulled together.

Actions:

- ERad to contact Andy Stevenson regarding BOA leaving
- RS/EM to update wording on letter to leaving members to reflect comments
- Discussion on potential of pulling together educational content with CSH and others

9. Letter from the PM and response

After the election in July 2024, we wrote to the PM congratulating him on his appointment and sharing information about our work and willingness to engage with the new government. We received a [response from the PM's office](#) saying "The important work of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change in the medical sector should be rightly recognised and praised." The letter also outlined the government's commitment to working with civil society.

A draft letter of response was shared prior to the meeting and discussed.

Points noted were:

- Trustees were supportive of the letter
- It was suggested that the letter should include specific asks

Actions:

- RS/EM to update the letter to PM to include specific asks
- EM to publish the PM's letter and the response on our website
- Use the PM's letter in highlighting the impact of our work

10. 2025 budget review

EM presented a revised [budget for 2025](#) taking account of lower subscriptions income that previously budgeted due to three organisations cancelling their membership.

Revisions to the budget include:

- Reduction in income expected from subscriptions due to members leaving
- Target of £6000 from new members joining
- Reduction of payroll as a consequence of AP leaving
- Reduction to £0 of desk hire as a consequence of no longer needed
- Addition of £2500 for scorecard charge (£5000 split over two years)

Points noted were:

- Need to accurately calculate the reserve if we needed to close down tomorrow
- Move reserve amount to the top of the budget line so not counted in the accounts
- It was agreed we should continue to submit grant applications when possible

Actions:

- Budget to be updated with updated reserve calculation and positioning of reserve line on the budget

11. 2024 end of year report

A [draft 2024 end of year report](#) was shared with the trustees and presented at the meeting. The report presents an overview of the work delivered over the course of the year. Once finalised, it will be shared with members and published on the website. It will be also be used as a tool for recruiting new members.

Actions:

- 2024 end of year report to be finalised and shared widely

12. March Council agenda

A draft agenda for the March Council meeting was shared prior to the meeting.

Points noted were:

- We should encourage membership organisations to invite others in their organisations to join online to hear Jim Skea speaking
- It would be good to have a breakout session for organisations to share what they are doing on our commitments

Actions:

- Encourage members to register to join the meeting and share opportunity to join online to others within their organisations
- Update the council agenda to include a breakout session on our commitments

13. The Climate Coalition 2025 mass lobby sign up

The Climate Coalition is planning to hold a mass lobby in July 2025. The rationale behind it is:

“Now more than ever, we must demonstrate that the public mandate for bold action on climate and nature is both broad and deeply rooted across society. A mass lobby of Parliament is a powerful way to amplify this mandate, focusing attention on the urgency of the crisis and demanding that our leaders rise to the challenge and leave behind a legacy of climate action.”

Lobbying events in Scotland and Wales will take place in April/May followed by a mass lobby in London on 25 June on 2 July (date to be confirmed)

It was agreed that UKHACC should participate. Caution regarding the risk of counter protests or disruption was noted.

It was agreed at this stage UKHACC is not in a position to provide financial support but this could be reviewed at a later stage

Actions:

- EM confirm participation in The Climate Coalition mass lobby

14. Member of RCP NIHR advisory board

The RCP is leading a NIHR study looking at the environmental impact of single use vs multiple use endoscopes. They have asked for a representative from UKHACC to join the advisory board. The expected time commitment is one 2 hour meeting (April/May) followed by email correspondence.

RG agreed to represent UKHACC.

Actions:

- EM to connect RG with RCP group to confirm representation on advisory committee

15. New chair appointment

An advertisement and expressions of interest for a new chair of UKHACC will commence in February with an aim to shortlist by May 2025. The process for appointing a chair was agreed previously.

A list of potential candidates has been started. Trustees were asked to share suggestions for individuals to approach and add to the list.

Actions:

- Suggestions for potential future UKHACC chairs to be sent to EM

16. TK exit interview feedback

Former trustee Terry Kemple has provided feedback through exit interview questions.

Points noted were:

- Good for each trustee to have an objective/ambition and relevant to the roles they have
- Have more of a trustee onboarding process - more detail in terms of induction would be useful
- Appraisals of trustees and chair should be completed
- Taking one particular issue at each trustee meeting for a lengthier discussion should be taken forward
- We should co-opt a finance person on the exec committee
- Acknowledgement of role of the chair and director was good to see
- The point about GP representation is important

Actions:

- RS/EM to consider process for co-opting a finance person to the executive committee
- Improved onboarding process for new trustees to be developed in time for the next election in September 2025

17. Response to conviction of Patrick Hart

Trustees discussed how to respond to the conviction of GP Dr Patrick Hart who has been sentenced to 12 months in prison after being convicted of causing criminal damage which resulted in damage to petrol pumps that cost £10,500 to repair/lost profits.

RS has spoken to other colleagues and suggested an interview over email with Dr Hart in prison might be a good way to share motivations. Trustees agreed RS should do this.

Actions:

- RS to follow up with Patrick Hart regarding interviewing him in relation to his actions and conviction

18. Health Foundation invitation to tender

The Health Foundation has opened a [call to tender](#) for an organisation to work with them to assess governance across Integrated Care Boards. The total value of the award is £90,000.

Trustees agreed to submit a proposal for funding. ERoaf and ERad offered to help with the application.

Actions:

- RS/EM to produce proposal for the Health Foundation call to tender with support of ERoaf and ERad

19. Scottish Food Commission Board

EM is considering applying for a board member post with the Scottish Food Commission which will be established in May 2025. The appointment is up to four days per week, paid.

If successful, EM would intend to take up this appointment additional to her role at UKHACC and not impact on the current time contracted with UKHACC.

Trustees were supportive of EM applying for this role.

20. GCHA board meeting

EM attended the GCHA board meeting in December and provided an update on key items discussed:

- Break the fossil fuel communications pledge (which was discussed at a previous meeting of trustees)
- Approval of the non-violent civil disobedience policy which included most changes requested by UKHACC (the GCHA board agreed not to take a position of expelling organisations involved in NVCD action)
- Omnia el Omrani will be appointed as Vice Chair in February when Courtenay Howard takes over as Chair. The current Chair Sue Atkinson will step down.
- Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments will join the board as Health and Environment Alliance rotates off
- AGM in February

21. Potential members

Introductory meetings were held with:

- British Cardiovascular Society
- Request regarding subscription fees from RCOT
- General Pharmaceutical Council

There was a discussion on whether we should invite the GMC to join the alliance, acknowledging they are in a difficult position, and that joining UKHACC might be a way for them to show they do care about this area of work. We already have one regulatory body as members.

Points noted were:

- We should aim to write to GMC and follow up every year and see invitations to join as an opportunity for advocacy
- It would be good to get a groundswell of people working in the GMC to be calling for them to join. JB offered to speak to Carrie Macewen to let her know we will be sending a letter and be part of conversations.
- It was asked if we should extend the invitation to all regulatory bodies and organisations like CQC? Care homes are a real interface between the health and care sectors. CQC is an important organisation that might see benefit to joining UKHACC in relation to organisations they are inspecting.
- It was suggested a conversation on other types of membership - specifically focused on conditions where prevention is a real issue (cardio, diabetes charities as a sub-tier of the alliance) should also take place

Actions:

- JB to inform GMC chair that UKHACC will be writing to them to ask about joining
- RS to write to the GMC to ask about joining
- Discussion on categories of membership for organisations to be discussed at a future meeting
- JB will reach out to a contact on the board of the British Society of Rheumatology

22. Risk register

The risk register needs to be updated and should ensure time is allocated for proper review at the next meeting

Actions:

- EM to update the risk register to reflect director absence management document now in place and reduced income due to members leaving
- Time for longer discussion on the risk register to take place at the next meeting

23. Any other business

RS updated on a meeting with Alice Clack and a small group of individuals from health organisations who want to make climate change a public health issue to bring people together. They are aiming to develop a broad ask that a lot of groups could get behind. They are looking for a UKHACC representative to be involved in a small group to develop the idea. ERoaf agreed to link up from a public health perspective.

Actions:

- RS/EM to connect ERoaf with Alice Clack regarding public health campaign

24. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held online at 14.30-16.30 Thursday 13 February 2025.
The April meeting date has changed from 10 April to 17 April.