



UK Health Alliance on Climate Change

Minutes of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change Executive Committee

Held online 10 July 2025, 14.30-16.30

Present: Juliet Dobson (BMJ), Elaine Mulcahy (Director, UKHACC), Richard Smith (Chair, UKHACC), Emma Radcliffe (GP), Rose Gallagher (RCN), Sandy Mather (ICS), Jill Belch (RCPE), Eleanor Roaf (FPH)

Apologies for absence: Jacob Kranowski (RCPsych), Ranee Thakar (RCOG), Rodney Morton (FNF), Chris Banks (Treasurer)

Summary of actions:

- EM to put call out for people to join the recruitment committee in a dedicated email > Done
- ERoa to update on ADPH strategic planning following September meeting > Carry forward
- RS to follow up on correspondence with the King's assistant > Done
- RS/EM to review the risk register > Done
- EM to investigate insurance costs for UKHACC > Done
- EM/SM/HM to write announcement of chair appointment to share with UKHACC members > Done
- JD to follow up with SM/HM regarding BMJ interview piece
- RS to write to President of RCP to thank them for hosting the adaptation roundtable > Done
- EM to notify SK of extension of contract to one day per week for 10 weeks at a rate of £300 per day > Done
- EM/SM/HM to discuss travel budget for strategic planning session > Carry forward
- EM to update the council agenda so that the talks happen before the official business > Done
- EM to circulate the council agenda to UKHACC members > Done
- Discuss make up of the trustees at the next strategic planning meeting > Carry forward
- EM to discuss a date and format for a strategic planning workshop in October/November with HM and SM > Meeting scheduled
- EM to send the letter on Rosebank to the PM > Done
- EM/RS to draft letter to government following up on publication of the 10 year plan and to share our adaptation report > Done
- RS/EM to finalise letter to NICE and government and share it with UKHACC members for signatures > On August agenda
- ERoa to feedback on discussions at FPH regarding potential registrar projects
- EM to reach out to RCPsych and ACPUK to ask if any of the registrar projects might map to learning outcomes in their specialties
- RS to investigate potential working with James Lind Alliance
- EM to update the Scottish manifesto text to make the calls to action shorter and active > Done
- EM to finalise design and publication of the Scotland manifesto > Done

- EM to investigate if the devolved nation manifestos can be shared with all candidates through the Engaging Networks platform > Carry forward
- JB to investigate if Scottish colleges plan to hold hustings
- EM to finalise text of Wales manifesto once all feedback received > Done
- EM to ask the intern Petra Todd to write a blog on climate change, health and conflict > Done
- EM/RS to discuss current status of potential members and which to follow up > Done

Carried forward from previous meetings

- EM to share Climate and Health Scorecard questions with trustees when available, and also ensure that Intensive Care Society is on their list of organisations to send the survey too
- EM to draft exit feedback questionnaire for leaving members following the 2025/6 renewal campaign
- EM to submit the signed accounts to the charity commission > Done
- EM to explore process for registering the with the fundraising regulator > Done (on August agenda)
- EM to investigate process for donations through CAF
- EM to set up a Just Giving page > In progress (on August agenda)
- Trustees wishing to volunteer to be on the recruitment committee to contact EM

1. Welcome from the Chair

RS welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Conflicts of interest

No Conflicts of interest were declared.

3. Minute from the June meeting

The minute from the June meeting was accepted.

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

- A number of items related to setting up the facility for individual donations (setting up the Just Giving page, donations through CAF bank, registering with the fundraising regulator) have not been completed. EM will aim to do this over before the next meeting.
- EM has put a call in the monthly Director's update email for people to join the recruitment committee. This will be followed up with a standalone email calling for people to join the committee. ERad and ERoa offered to be a trustee representation on the committee if others do not come forward.
- ADPH and FPH having discussions about joint climate and health strategy and doing it through the offices of both organisations. ERoa will update further after their strategic planning meeting in September.
- Following previous correspondence with the King's Assistant it was agreed this should be followed up

4. Risk register

The risk register has been updated to reflect comments at the previous meeting. Points noted were:

- There was some confusion about the direction arrows. EM/RS to follow up
- Should we be more explicit on some of the risks - limited resource, should we be more detailed on some of the risks
- We should consider separating out strategic versus operational risks
- It was suggested and agreed we should get basic information on insurance costs for content on our website and other messaging from people representing UKHACC

5. New chair appointment process

Following interviews held on 24-25 June, Hugh Montgomery and Sandy Mather have been offered the role of Chair of UKHACC. They will be formally appointed at the Council meeting on 18 September.

Trustees were previously notified over email and all have emailed Hugh and Sandy to express their congratulations and best wishes. SM has thanked everyone on the recruitment committee and the board for their good wishes which she will pass onto Hugh M.

It was agreed that UKHACC members should be informed of the appointment, both in a standalone email and along with the council agenda prior to the formal appointment at the AGM. An external announcement will follow the AGM.

The BMJ is interested in doing an interview piece with HM and SM to be published after the AGM.

EM is meeting with HM and SM on 15 August to discuss the process.

Action:

- EM/SM/HM to write announcement of chair appointment to share with UKHACC members
- JD to follow up with SM/HM regarding BMJ interview piece

6. June Director's report

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

- June was a particularly busy month with a number of major events taking place - Clean Air Day and the launch of our adaptation policy report and roundtable, along with work on influencing the NHS 10 year plan
- We had an excellent response to the letter calling for the commitment to net zero to be included in the 10 year plan, which we understand did have an influence. We received a response from the Minister Karin Smyth. This was a good example of the strength of the alliance coming together.
- RG gave an update on an Octopus energy summit she attended. They had some very big speakers. RG came away from the conference feeling positive about the move to greener energy and building alliances to move away from fossil fuels. Felt terrified following a talk by Stephen Fry on AI on how it could affect political positions. Interesting talk on Ukraine and energy infrastructure destroyed and leading on green energy. Interesting talk on flipping messages to get greater engagement. Disappointed that health wasn't mentioned and approached informally about that. Could follow up with a letter from us.

- ERoa attended the mass lobby. Interviewed by Sky News (but they didn't seem interested). The environment and nature side were the main focus. Had a session with her MP, 6 people from the constituency were there. Good session with her MP and felt like some progress. Would have been good to have a stall or a tshirt for future events like this. Feedback said it was a hard sell to get press interested. Having position papers in leaflet form or QR codes would be good to take to things like this and share them - link this issue of health and environment. RS met with MP - 35 from the constituency - she said climate change was the issue above everything else. She said this was common among labour MPs. She seemed willing to put questions on our behalf and we could approach her to do this, e.g. a question on NICE or adaptation. Ann Marie Raffery might also ask a question.
- RS attended HoL reception to celebrate five years of Peers for the Planet. Stephen Fry gave a powerful speech. 178 members of HoL in PfP - diverse with secretariat and funding. Good people to keep a relationship with.
- JB commended the blog rating second on a recent UK climate blogs poll
- It was observed that newsletter subscribers and open rate are flat. Shouldn't be too despondent about the numbers - some will read them on readers pane
- It was suggested we could approach bigger membership organisations to ask them how climate change is relevant to them - put it on our website, good for us to understand what's relevant to them in terms of climate change
- It was suggested trustees could act as relationship managers with bigger members to energise them
- RCP did a very good job of hosting the adaptation report. RS will write to the President to thank them.

7. Budget

The June budget update was presented. Everything is on track and no issues to report.

8. Extending Shashank Kumar contract

EM requested trustees approval to extend Shashank Kumar's contract by a further 10 weeks, working 1 day per week, to support the development of the How To guides for Our Commitments project. The total cost would be £3,000.

We are currently budgeting to have an end of year surplus of just under £6000, and the travel budget is likely to come in under budget. The additional £3,000 for Shashank could come from these excesses.

The trustees approved the proposal.

A discussion about covering trustee expense costs for attending in person council meetings and strategic planning days took place. It was agreed this was something to take forward with HM and SM when planning the forthcoming strategic planning session.

Action:

- EM to notify SK of extension of contract to one day per week for 10 weeks at a rate of £300 per day
- EM/SM/HM to discuss travel budget for strategic planning session

9. Draft September Council and AGM agenda

A draft agenda for the September AGM and council meeting was shared prior to the meeting and discussed. Key points noted were:

- Speakers on specialist areas lined up
- A UKKA representation will also speak about kidney experience on influencing suppliers
- It will be a good clinically oriented discussion
- Best to move talks to the beginning and then formal AGM
- Formal appointment of the new chairs will take place at start of meeting, then RS to chair the rest of the meeting

Actions:

- EM to update the council agenda so that the talks happen before the official business
- EM to circulate the council agenda to UKHACC members

10. 2025 Trustee elections - STV process

An example of the Single Transferable Voting system that will be used for the trustee elections was shared prior to the meeting.

The system essentially works by establishing a quota that candidates must reach in order to be elected. As candidates with the fewest votes are eliminated, their second preference votes are passed onto other candidates. Likewise, when candidates have exceeded the quota, their surplus votes are allocated to next preference candidates.

There was a discussion whether we should consider reducing the number of trustees on the board. Points noted were:

- A smaller board can enable more productive meetings
- Not all trustees can currently attend all meetings, fewer trustees may risk greater risk of instances where we are not quorate
- It is good for trustees to represent a lot of different voices, going to narrow risks this
- The Director doesn't have staff help so more trustees to call on may be a better option for supporting her
- Need to consider diversity among the trustee board
- It was agreed the make up of the trustees should be discussed at the next strategy meeting

Actions:

- Discuss make up of the trustees at the next strategic planning meeting

11. Strategic planning session

We had previously planned to have a strategic planning session on the morning before the September council and AGM. It was suggested it might be better to wait to have this session with the new Chairs in place. EM is also not able to attend in person in September.

Actions

- EM to discuss a date and format for a strategic planning workshop in October/November with HM and SM

12. Letter to PM on EIA and Rosebank

Following the publication of new guidance on Environmental Impact Assessment for consent applications for oil and gas, it is expected that Equinor will apply for government approval to commence extraction in the Rosebank oilfield. Uplift has encouraged UKHACC to follow up on previous work done, making the case for the health reasons to say no to new oil and gas, with a letter to the PM expressing our support to reject an application for Rosebank.

A number of other groups including Christian Climate Action, Oxfam, Ocean Alliance, Parents for the Future, Global Justice Now and the Weald Group as also writing to the PM with a similar message.

A draft letter was shared prior to the meeting. It was agreed we should go ahead and send the letter to the PM

Actions:

- EM to send the letter on Rosebank to the PM

13. NHS 10 year health plan for England

The NHS 10 year health plan for England was published last week. It included a commitment to net zero by 2040/45 and building sustainability and resilience.

Points noted were:

- We should write to the government to commend the ambition in the plan and use it as an opportunity to share our adaptation report.
- Reliance on AI and human genome is concerning
- Climate effects of AI may be substantial.
- Feels like the plan is putting its faith in unproven and uninvented technologies - deeply worrying
- We should be positive and carry the positives in the messaging
- AI implications for energy and water maybe something we should revisit - might be something to discuss at the strategy meeting
- Greener NHS need to be pushed to move their communication into other departments

Actions:

- EM/RS to draft letter to government following up on publication of the 10 year plan and to share our adaptation report

14. Letter to NICE

RS has drafted a letter to NICE which has been shared with Centre for Sustainable Healthcare and Sustainable Healthcare Coalition. Once finalised we plan to ask UKHACC members to sign. The letter will be accompanied by a letter to the government (because NICE has said they do not have a remit from the government).

Points noted:

- Good, measured letter
- NICE could put more emphasis on how to dispose of cytotoxic medicines - a paragraph about an area that does not impact patient care but wider environment and important health professionals understand about disposable medicine - RS to write separately on this. There are solutions and examples from other countries. JB

to send information available for RS to write. It would be helpful to include the pharmacists as well

- We also need to approach MHRA and SIGN

Actions:

- RS/EM to finalise letter to NICE and government and share it with UKHACC members for signatures

15. Registrar potential projects

A list of potential projects that NHS registrars could undertake as part of their non-clinical work was shared prior to the meeting and discussed.

Points noted were:

- We could put this on our website.
- ERoa has a climate and health strategy meeting with FPH tomorrow and will match against their then develop learning outcomes to see if there is a potential project.
- Projects need to align with competency based frameworks - which of these could be developed against learning outcomes to do as part of their training.
- Psychiatry and clinical psychologists might also be interested.
- Might be good to discuss at council meetings
- James Lind Alliance sets priorities for research in different areas - not sure if they have done anything on research and health. Might be something worth looking at. Worth touching base with them but look closely at how they are working and their expectations. Previous experience was that working with them was very expensive. RS to try and find out a bit more.

Actions:

- ERoa to feedback on discussions at FPH regarding potential registrar projects
- EM to reach out to RCPsych and ACPUK to ask if any of the registrar projects might map to learning outcomes in their specialties
- RS to investigate potential working with James Lind Alliance

16. Scottish Government Election manifesto

The final text of the manifesto for the Scottish Government election was shared for approval. This is now with the graphic designer with the aim of publishing at the end of August before MSPs return from recess.

It was agreed the actions should be edited to start with a verb and make shorter and active. JB will ask if any of the Scottish colleges are planning to hold hustings. Hustings for every region in Scotland are held. We could ask people to go along to ask questions on climate and health.

Actions:

- EM to update the Scottish manifesto text to make the calls to action shorter and active
- EM to finalise design and publication of the Scotland manifesto
- EM to investigate if the devolved nation manifestos can be shared with all candidates through the Engaging Networks platform
- JB to investigate if Scottish colleges plan to hold hustings

17. Welsh Government Election manifesto

Draft text of the manifesto for the Welsh government elections has been shared with the comms/policy teams for feedback by 26 July. A final draft will be shared with trustees for approval at the August meeting.

Actions:

- EM to finalise text of Wales manifesto once all feedback received

18. Position on war and conflict

We received a request from a member of RCPCH which was sent in a personal capacity. The request asked if UKHACC should make a statement on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, as the RCPCH has done. The letter also highlights the carbon footprint of war and the links between the climate crisis and conflict.

UKHACC does not currently have a position on war and conflict in terms of the environmental and health costs.

Points noted:

- War and climate change go together in many ways and have impact on environment and health
- BMJ is planning some articles around this theme
- Any focus should be broader than the Gaza conflict
- There is a link between climate change and war - how climate change makes war more likely
- Basic message but important to raise awareness
- Not in charitable purpose to make comment on particular war
- Ask the intern Petra to write a blog

Actions:

- EM to ask the intern Petra Todd to write a blog on climate change, health and conflict

19. Potential members

Marie Curie was emailed to ask if they might be interested in joining.

RG speaking to Foundation of Nursing Practice

Getting the recruitment committee set up is important, EM/RS are going to discuss current status of potential members and which to follow up

20. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held online at 14.30-16.30 Thursday 14 August 2025.

EM will be on annual leave from 1-11 August.