



Minutes of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change Executive Committee

Held online 13 June 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), Liz Marder (RCPCH), Anandita Pattnaik (UKHACC), Raneer Thakar (RCOG)

Apologies for absence: Sandy Mather (ICS), Emma Radcliffe (GP), Eleanor Roaf (FPH)

Summary of actions:

- RS is still to send the new skills audit to trustees to complete
- RS to chase up NHS Providers
- JK questions for trusts to share with trustees is still to be completed
- Trustees discussed what we might do following the outcome of the court verdict on health professionals convicted for climate protest. It was agreed that UKHACC should respond in some way but need to think carefully about what we say. We do not support health professionals who have participated in violent action but also raise balanced view that we believe these health professionals are not a threat to the public and their potential career should not be impacted as a result of these actions. Further consideration to be given on the outcome of the verdict which is expected over the next few days.
- Notes to be added to the budget update to explain any expenditure that falls outside the budgeted amount > Done
- EM to clarify if we are required by the charity commission to have our accounts audited > Done [Details here]
- Any trustees who know high net worth individuals to let RS know
- EM to add general election comms pack to webpage > Done
- EM to link general election activity from homepage > Done
- EM to investigate whether 'write to your candidate' allows different emails to be sent to different candidates > Done (these can be edited independently)
- Develop a proposal for reaching out to members to produce a library of webinars or podcasts on specific topics
- Trustees to note comments on the draft letter to NICE shared document > Done
- RS to share the draft letter to NICE with health organisations for feedback/comment > Done
- TK, LM, JK to ask about room availability at their respective colleges to host the council meeting on 26 Sep and strategic planning sessions on 25 and 26 Sep
- RS/EM to produce plan for strategic planning sessions for next meeting > Done
- EM to circulate council/AGM agenda in July Director's Update > Done
- RS/EM to produce a draft strategic priorities survey for members for next meeting > Done
- Statement on bank switching commitment to be published
- Email to members on case studies and endorsements for commitments > Done

- EM to coordinate meeting of health organisations developing work related to the commitments > Done
- EM to add UKHACC to list of signatories on HCWH open letter from health professionals on the plastics treaty > Done
- AP to submit application to join UN FAST
- EM/RS to produce document/benefits of membership for RT to share with AoMRC
- Drive for new members to be renewed after the election
- EM to locate previous correspondence with IEMA and share with JK > Done

1. Welcome from the Chair

RS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minute from the May meeting

The minute from the May meeting was accepted.

Updates on actions from the last meeting:

The following actions were discussed

- RS is still to send the new skills audit to trustees to complete
- RS to chase up NHS Providers
- JK questions for trusts to share with trustees is still to be completed
- Trustees discussed what we might do following the outcome of the court verdict on health professionals convicted for climate protest. It was agreed that UKHACC should respond in some way but need to think carefully about what we say. We do not support health professionals who have participated in violent action but also raise balanced view that we believe these health professionals are not a threat to the public and their potential career should not be impacted as a result of these actions. Further consideration to be given on the outcome of the verdict which is expected over the next few days.

3. May Director's report

The May Director's report was shared prior to the meeting. Key points highlighted:

Points noted were:

- Heard communications agency approached us to support work they have been commissioned to undertake to increase visibility of sustainability initiatives in TV dramas. EM met with Heard to discuss the project and agreed that Heard should come back to us with specific storylines where there will be an opportunity to place sustainability messaging.
- The call for nominations for trustees was issued on 31 May in the Director's Update email. This will be followed up with a separate email at the start of next week. We will monitor submissions.

4. Budget update

The May budget vs income/expenditure overview was shared for review on the spreadsheet of the accounts The budget is currently on track with no issues to report.

There was a discussion about our current accountant and previous issues. EM advised that we should assess the process of the production of the accounts, which a lot of work has already gone into. Once that process has been completed, we could then review the accountant's services and decide whether to consider switching.

Actions:

- Notes to be added to the budget update to explain any expenditure that falls outside the budgeted amount
- EM to clarify if we are required by the charity commission to have our accounts audited

5. Fundraising committee

RS and EM met with Rachel Armitage, RCNi regarding establishing a fundraising committee. The notes from that meeting were shared with trustees prior to this meeting. RA has agreed to chair a committee and produce draft principles and due diligence for review by the executive committee. The intention is to hold the first meeting of the committee in September.

A call for people to join the committee was issued in the Director's Update email sent on 31 May. Any trustees wishing to join the committee should let EM know. It was also noted that ideally we would not want more than one trustee on the fundraising committee to ensure there is not too much overlap between the groups. The exec committee will approve recommendations/proposals put forward by the fundraising committee.

The trustees supported the establishment of the committee.

Actions:

- Any trustees who know high net worth individuals to let RS know

6. General Election update

Following the announcement on 22 May that the General Election will take place on 4 July, we have implemented a number of actions from our general election strategy. EM presented a summary of activities to date. [The presentation slides can be viewed here.](#)

Key actions notes were:

- RFTL event held on 9 June - about 30 people joined the ride
- Letter to candidates sent on 11 June with 33 signatures. Multiple responses received from candidates which are being collated in this document. It was agreed we should email all those that responded after the election with a congratulatory or follow up message
- Write to your local candidate launched on 12 June
- The election webpages have been updated with links to information and actions associated with our campaign. It was requested that the comms pack should be added to the website. It was also agreed to investigate if the general election pages could be accessed directly from the homepage.
- We have encouraged membership organisations to get involved in these activities where they can.
- AP is currently producing a summary document of the climate, nature and health policies of party manifestos. We will share this on our website.

- We will start to think about best approach and asks of the new government over the next few weeks

Write to all who have been elected to congratulate them and considerate

Add social media pack to website

Not clear that writing to candidate will go to all of them - check

Action:

- EM to add general election comms pack to webpage
- EM to link general election activity from homepage
- EM to investigate whether 'write to your candidate' allows different emails to be sent to different candidates

7. In Conversation webinars

The trustees discussed whether we should continue to pursue potential speakers for In Conversation webinars, or if these should be put on hold for now.

Points noted were:

- A lot of work, with not much response
- We should wait until strategy day when discussing priorities for the year ahead to decide whether to proceed with these
- A lot of work for UKHACC but our members have a lot of expertise which is worth sharing with other people. We should be pushing stuff out there. We could ask various members to do one session each on a topic close to their heart and use those to build a library rather than having a live webinar. If taking this approach we should aim to organise a template or branding in advance to ensure there is consistency in how it is presented. We could also help provide speakers.
- Could we re-purpose into podcast or video that would have more value in sharing more widely.
- There are certain times of the year where it might be helpful to explain about it to encourage people to follow and engage with it, e.g. COP28
- It would be helpful to have an estimate of time being putting into the webinars and how does this balance against other priorities.
- Panels were easier to put together than high profile individuals.

Action:

- Develop a proposal for reaching out to members to produce a library of webinars or podcasts on specific topics

8. Letter to NICE

A [draft letter to NICE](#) was shared prior to the meeting.

The aim of the letter is that it would come from us as well as other health organisations that come to our monthly meetings (Centre for Sustainable Healthcare, Medact, Sustainable Healthcare Coalition, etc.)

Trustees were asked to note any comments on the shared document over the next few days. RS will also share with other health organisations to get their input.

Actions:

- Trustees to note comments on the draft letter to NICE shared document
- RS to share the draft letter to NICE with health organisations for feedback/comment

9. September 2024 council and AGM

Venue

The September council meeting will be held at 2-5pm on Thursday 26 September. The committee was asked if any of their organisations might be able to provide a venue for the meeting. LM agreed to ask RCPCH. TK will ask at RCGP. JK will ask RCPsych. A meeting room for 15 people would be required for 3 hours (4-7pm) on 25 Sep and for 30 people with hybrid capacity 9-5 on 26 Sep.

Strategic planning workshop

It was agreed the trustees should meet for a strategic planning workshop in the morning before the council/AGM. RS/EM to plan strategic planning for next meeting

Draft agenda

A draft agenda for the council/AGM was shared prior to the meeting. The agenda was approved.

Strategic priorities survey

Trustees discussed whether we should aim to survey our members prior to the meeting to seek views on what our strategic priorities and focus should be over the next three to five years.

Good to have the strategic meeting after feedback from members.

We could use manifesto commitments to gauge which of them need to be a priority
Big ticket themes

RS/EM to draft survey for next meeting

Actions:

- TK, LM, JK to ask about room availability at their respective colleges to host the council meeting on 26 Sep and strategic planning sessions on 25 and 26 Sep
- RS/EM to produce plan for strategic planning sessions for next meeting
- EM to circulate council/AGM agenda in July Director's Update
- RS/EM to produce a draft strategic priorities survey for members for next meeting

10. Commitments project update

EM provided an update of the Commitments project implementation. Key actions noted were:

- The bank switching commitment is now live on our website. This has been highlighted to the comms/policy teams and in the monthly Director's report, but we have not produced any other statements at this stage (mainly due to focus being on general election related work). A statement will be published on our website next week.
- A call for case studies and endorsement was sent in the Director's Update on 31 May. A separate dedicated communication to members on this will be issued next week.
- We are aware of a number of initiatives doing similar or complementary work in this space. The Climate and Health Scorecard has been speaking to the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges about developing case studies and resources. RealZero is

also working on content and actions to support organisations to take actions. And EM has had a good conversation with the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare about developing educational modules related to each of the Commitments. EM is planning to bring all of these organisations together to discuss how we might partner to deliver this project, and potentially in a joint funding bid.

- Nick Watts has introduced us to a University of Melbourne medical student who is keen to do a 4 week elective with us in September. She would work on the Commitments project during this time. She is currently applying for a scholarship to enable her to travel to the UK and BMJ is exploring the option of providing desk space. If travel is not feasible, she can work on the project remotely from Melbourne. JD has emailed the HR team and will report back.

Actions:

- Statement on bank switching commitment to be published
- Email to members on case studies and endorsements for commitments
- EM to coordinate meeting of health organisations developing work related to the commitments

11. Plastic treaty open letter

We have been asked to support an open letter from health professionals on the plastics treaty that is being coordinated by Healthcare Without Harm. The Global Climate and Health Association are signatories.

We were separately also asked to support another letter from the Plastic Health Council, but do not know much about this organisation.

It was agreed that UKHACC should sign the open letter being coordinated by HCWH

Actions:

- EM to add UKHACC to list of signatories on HCWH open letter from health professionals on the plastics treaty

12. UN FAST partnership

Trustees discussed whether UKHACC should join the UN Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation Partnership, which is a multi-stakeholder partnership aiming to accelerate the transformation of agriculture and food systems by 2030 for people, climate and nature. FAST was developed to implement activities and achieve objectives of the FAST initiative launched by the COP27 presidency.

Points noted were:

- AP advised that she is a member of YOUNGO (a youth group for UN) who are currently in the process of joining UNFAST. This is what alerted her to it and she felt it would be good to be part of this global process.
- The work lines up well with our policy work of food which we plan to publish in October
- There is no fee, it is a UN working group that will be focusing on projects to present at COP meetings.
- Membership consists of government and civil society organisations. AP will explore whether there is a list of members

- We need to be mindful of limited resource and being involved in too many groups where we will have limited impact
- We have potentially more to gain from being a member from the resources and networks/policy guidance that we will learn from it

It was agreed we should apply to join.

Actions:

- AP to submit application to join UN FAST

13. Potential members

A discussion took place about approaching AoMRC to encourage some of the Royal Colleges and Faculties that are not members of UKHACC. RT offered to take information to AoMRC to present the benefits of joining. The Academy is open to sharing documents. EM/RS to produce a shareable document with key messages. Using our General Election campaign work and commitments as examples of our work would be a good approach.

This is the list of RCs that are not members

Pin message

Royal College of Ophthalmologists

Royal College of Pathologists

Faculty of Occupational Medicine

Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine

Faculty of Sport and Exercise Medicine

Royal College of Midwifery

Royal Society of Public Health

It was agreed the period after the election might be a good time for another drive to recruit more members.

Actions:

- EM/RS to produce document/benefits of membership for RT to share with AoMRC
- Drive for new members to be renewed after the election

14. Risk register

The risk register was shared prior to the meeting.

It was agreed it would be useful to have some dedicated time to work on this. It may be a good session for the strategy day.

Suggestions of risks to be added were on website security/risk of hacking and associations with other organisations that might present a reputational risk.

15. Any other business

JK asked if anyone had information on IEMA, which has provided accreditation for some Trusts that have undertaken sustainability training on one of their programmes. RS and EM met with IEMA previously but did not pursue it further as their offer was not relevant to UKHACC.

Action:

- EM to locate previous correspondence with IEMA and share with JK

16. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held online at 14.30-16.30 Thursday 11 July 2024