



Minutes of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change Executive Committee

Held online 13 March 2025, 14.30-16.30

Present: Juliet Dobson (BMJ), Elaine Mulcahy (Director, UKHACC), Emma Radcliffe (GP), Eleanor Roaf (FPH), Richard Smith (Chair, UKHACC)

Apologies for absence: Jill Belch (RCPE), Rose Gallagher (RCN), Jacob Kranowski (RCPsych), Sandy Mather (ICS), Rodney Morton (FNF), Raneer Thakar (RCOG)

Summary of actions:

- Trustees to update the conflicts of interest register either directly on the shared document or by emailing EM as required
- EM/RS to consider projects that could be developed with learning outcomes for registrars training programmes
- EM to explore options of free courses on charity governance for trustees
- EM to notify all members of BSM, ACPGBI, SAM, COPD joining UKHACC and finalise the joining process > Done
- EM to send link to register for the council meeting to trustees > Done
- EM to produce contract for commitments project support officer > Done
- RS/EM to make a recommendation regarding appointment of a Treasurer following the interview on 18 March > Done
- Continue reaching out to potential individuals for UKHACC chair and assess the position of expressions of interest at the next meeting of trustees > Ongoing
- Share proposal for expanding membership categories paper with council for discussion at the meeting on 27 March > Done
- RS/EM to report back after meeting with Mood Bhutta on NIHR hub and request a copy of submission
- Reach out to RCP and other contacts involved with research hubs
- AP/EM to take feedback on draft of adaptation report and consult with working group on producing the next draft > Done
- RS writing to Health Foundation regarding funding to develop war game scenario of health > Done
- RS/EM to draft a letter to DHSC on the need for an entity taking leadership and support for sustainability in the NHS > On hold due to feedback from GNHS

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 January meeting

The minute from the February meeting was accepted.

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

- Following an issue regarding our tax return not being filed, Milsted Langdon agreed to do this work without charging us in recognition of their error. They also offered to deduct the £100 payment for the fine to HMRC from future invoices. EM has paid the fine, but we will not get it returned from ML as we will no longer be using their service.
- The Climate Action Awards discussion with colleagues is not likely to proceed due to the need for a research lead. ERoa considering engaging more on public health work.
- It was agreed we should look at pieces of work that might be possible as for registrars programme, look at which speciality and put together a project brief and learning outcomes, supervised by the board member
- Our grant application to the Health Foundation was not successful. Lesson that we shouldn't apply for research projects unless doing it with a research organisation.

4. Risk register

The risk register was updated following the previous meeting. Points noted were:

- Observation that risk of people being less active due to political influences may be rising
- Grassroots level appear to be more organised while leadership level less visible
- Possibility of paying a chair was raised for future discussion, but this would be an expensive payment. It would be better to invest resource in a junior staff member. Considering a chair (high profile) and deputy chair (more operational) might be another consideration.

5. New member approvals:

Applications to join from the organisations listed below were reviewed by the trustees.

- British Society of Haematology
- Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland
- Society for Acute Medicine
- College of Operating Department Practitioners

It was noted that COPD is a new organisation less than 12 months old and therefore the membership fee will be waived for the first year of membership.

All applications were approved.

RSM has decided not to re-join.

Actions:

- EM to notify all members of BSM, ACPGBI, SAM, COPD joining UKHACC and finalise the joining process

6. February Director's report

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

- Our letter to Wes Streeting regarding oil and gas licences has got 22 signatures. EM is meeting with Uplift next week to discuss the timing of sending the letter. Uplift has offered to help with media coverage. Last week, the government opened another consultation on the future of the North Sea. The deadline for responses to this is 30 April.

- To date, 34 people have registered to join the council meeting on 27 March. 15 are in person. Trustees were asked to ensure they had registered via the form to ensure we have numbers of those attending in person. The final agenda, papers and a reminder to register will be sent to all members on Friday 14 March.

Actions:

- EM to send link to register for the council meeting to trustees

7. Budget

The February budget update was presented. Points noted were:

- The budget allocated for accountancy and finance has been reduced by £3,500 to reflect the switch to a new service
- The policy budget line has been reduced by £1,500 to £6,000.
- A new line of commitments project support of £6,000 has been added to cover the cost of a freelance project officer to work on the commitments project for two days a week over 10 weeks. Their work will focus on initiating work on How To guides, organising information sessions, and collating case studies for the first four Commitments

Actions:

- EM to produce contract for commitments project support officer

8. Treasurer interviews

We have received an application for the role of UKHACC Treasurer. An interview is scheduled to take place at 3pm on Tuesday 18 March. RS, EM and Rachel Armitage (Chair of the finance committee) will participate in the interview.

A recommendation will be made to trustees after the interview.

Actions:

- RS/EM to make a recommendation regarding appointment of a Treasurer following the interview on 18 March

9. New chair recruitment update

A number of individuals have been contacted regarding potential interest in becoming the next Chair of UKHACC. A number have ruled themselves out and we are waiting on responses from others and continuing to reach out to people. Shortlisting is scheduled to take place in May.

Actions:

- Continue reaching out to potential individuals for UKHACC chair and assess the position of expressions of interest at the next meeting of trustees

10. Membership categories paper

Following discussion at the previous meeting, a proposal to expand our membership categories for discussion at the Council meeting on 27 March has been produced. The proposal recommends expanding membership to non-profit and charitable organisations working in the health sector.

Advice of individuals working in the NHS suggested NHS organisations would be unlikely to join at this stage, would be unable to pay more than £500 in fees and tied up with other things. It was agreed that this route was not worth pursuing at this stage.

Points noted:

- Future treasurer might be able to make a contribution to this and will have expertise
- Best approach is to do this in phases

Actions:

- Share proposal for expanding membership categories paper with council for discussion at the meeting on 27 March

11. Non-violent civil disobedience

In February, we published a two-part interview with the convicted GP Pat Hart who is currently in prison. The BMJ was unable to publish the interview, so as an alternative RS wrote an opinion piece, which pointed people to the interview. In this piece, RS reflected that he was sceptical about the evidence of civil disobedience. Rapid responses from a number of individuals criticised the article via rapid responses, and also over email directly to RS.

A question that arose was whether UKHACC should have a policy on NVCD.

Points noted:

- Uncertain what the purpose would be. It would be difficult to get agreement across all of our membership organisations and risk alienating people and organisations leaving.
- Experience with GCHA was the producing such a policy was a significant amount of work and not sure this would be an appropriate or necessary use of our resource at this time
- Need to answer to our members, and a position on NVCD is not something our members have asked for
- Surveys have shown UKHACC may be able to support things in ways individual are not able to
- GCHA policy is worded well but was a lot of work with multiple board meeting discussions and time to produce
- A UKHACC position may be helpful to have as a means of responding when we are challenged about it and future issues arise
- A position on whether punitive actions are disproportionate may also be an area to have a position on

It was agreed that at the current time UKHACC would not develop a position on this area.

12. NIHR research hubs

NIHR funding for seven net zero research hubs has been confirmed.

Mood Bhutta, who chaired the Green Surgery Report, is the lead for the hub to decarbonise commissioning and delivery of healthcare. RS and EM are meeting with Mood next week to discuss potential collaboration. An end of life project may be an example of an area to collaborate.

RCP is a supporter of the University of Exeter hub for one health system: creating sustainable health and social care pathways.

Actions:

- RS/EM to report back after meeting with Mood Bhutta on NIHR hub and request a copy of submission
- Reach out to RCP and other contacts involved with research hubs

13. Position on nuclear energy

A short life working group involving JB, JD, RVCS, RCPsych met in February and a first draft of a position statement is underway. We aim to have this finalised for approval at the April meeting of the Executive Committee.

14. The Climate Coalition mass lobby

The TCC mass lobby will take place on 9 July. The purpose of the lobby is to:

- Enable as many direct conversations with politicians as possible - with constituents, experts, and key voices from different sectors.
- Demonstrate a sense of energy and groundswell of momentum backing action.
- Show that this isn't just a concern of green groups, there is a diverse array of people from all walks of life that care about climate change and the environment.

A number of working groups have been established to coordinate delivery: Delivery WG, Political WG, Comms WG, Mobilisation WG. EM has joined the political WG and will attend an in person strategy workshop in London on 26 March.

15. Adaptation policy report

Feedback on the first draft of the policy report has been received from the working group and AP is currently working on a second draft. The final draft is expected to be completed for approval on 30 March.

Points noted:

- Lack of knowledge is very visible in ICSSs
- Local variation needs to be considered
- Cold deaths not going to fall as much due to temperature rises
- The report has lots on the problem and less on the solution - implementation piece at the end needs a prioritisation - why were these things picked out, what can happen over the next five years.
- May be worth bringing into 'health in all departments' work
- Don't get the message from the report that things are bad - may be best to publish after CCC adaptation report and reference their findings in it
- In a recent meeting with Laurie Laybourn he talked about work his organisation is doing looking at what sort of things are likely to happen and to develop policies around this. One part of his work is developing war games - what kinds of things might happen, how might we respond in those circumstances, what can we do now to prepare. They have done finance and security, and the next stage to look at would be health. This may be something the Health Foundation is interested in. RS is going to write some paragraphs for our report that we need to think beyond current thinking.
- We've never managed to get in contact with Lea Berrang Ford

Actions:

- AP/EM to take feedback on draft of adaptation report and consult with working group on producing the next draft
- RS writing to Health Foundation regarding funding to develop war game scenario of health

16. Meeting with Wellcome

EM met with the Wellcome UK government relations and climate and health policy leads. They are currently exploring what their priorities will be for influencing government policy in the UK. They were interested in the policy work we have done and EM stressed the needed support for implementation. They said they would get in touch once they have established their priorities for the UK.

17. Letter to the King

A draft letter to the King was shared with trustees. The letter reflects on the King's role in the establishment of UKHACC ten years and requests a meeting to mark our anniversary.

18. Potential members

Meetings have also taken place with:

- Royal College of Occupational Therapists (opted not to join but will reconsider in future)
- Royal College of Podiatrists (awaiting response)
- General Pharmaceutical Council (confirmed not joining due to cost)
- Royal College Radiologists - waiting for response
- Radiographers - going to reach out to

19. Any other business

RS wrote to Penny Dash in her new role as Chair of NHS England, which was announced today is now going to be abolished. The letter said it was important to keep the Greener NHS.

In light of the announcement about NHS England being abolished, do we think there needs to continue to be a NHS Programme providing greener NHS leadership, and if we do, how can we support this?

Points noted:

- Should we write to Wes Streeting/PM on need for leadership and technical support for greener NHS
- Dust hasn't settled yet, maybe too early to make a judgement. A lot of ICBs have no idea at this stage what is happening, need to wait to find out a bit more
- Centralising to DHSC and cutting regional support and poorly interconnected
- Agree its good to have an entity taking leadership and support for sustainability and draw on the leadership it has in this area globally
- RS has reached out to Greener NHS team to ask what this means for them

Actions:

- RS/EM to draft a letter to DHSC on the need for an entity taking leadership and support for sustainability in the NHS

20. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held online at 14.30-16.30 Thursday 17 April 2025.