



Minutes of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change Executive Committee

Held online 10 October 2024, 14.30-16.30

Present: Juliet Dobson (BMJ), Rose Gallagher (RCN), Jacob Kranowski (RCPsych), Sandy Mather (ICS), Rodney Morton (FNF), Elaine Mulcahy (Director, UKHACC), Richard Smith (Chair, UKHACC), Anandita Pattnaik (UKHACC), Emma Radcliffe (GP), Eleanor Roaf (FPH)

Apologies for absence: Jill Belch (RCPE), Raneer Thakar (RCOG)

Summary of actions:

- JK to produce a document for the board to approve related to supporting clinical engagement with trusts with questions people could ask, examples from successful campaigns
- Trustees to send suggested questions for exit interview to TK
- EM to share correspondence with DHSC office with trustees > Done
- EM to liaise with accountant on clarity of cost of services prior to agreements > Done
- EM to update charity register with JB and RM details > Done
- EM to add ERoaf as an authoriser on the bank account > Done
- EM to check Thursday meeting dates/time with JB > Done
- 2025 executive committee calendar invites to be circulated to trustees > Done
- RS/EM to ask BMA about hosting the March meeting hosting > Done
- Diary invite hold for 2025 council meetings to be sent to trustees > Done
- UKHACC to close between Christmas and New Year (staff not required to take days as annual leave) > On staff calendars
- EM to notify members of RealZero's application to join and proceed with formal joining process > Done
- COP16 letter > Done
- COP29 letter finalised > Done, sent for signatures
- Draft council minutes to be revised to ensure no individual quoted in text > Done
- Final council minutes to be circulated to UKHACC members > Done
- Final council minutes to be shared with Chris Gormley with notification of deletion of recording > Done
- EM to share strategic planning presentation slides and objectives with members for feedback before sign off at the executive committee meeting in November > Done
- Active travel and 'climate resilient' amendment to be made and the final version of the Lancet Countdown policy brief and then sent to Lancet Countdown for production > Done
- RS/EM to notify the Greener Palliative Care Award of our endorsement > Done
- EM/RS to continue discussion on producing a statement related to convictions of protesters in balance of resource and existing information available > Done
- RS to reply to Scientists for Global Responsibility saying we will not be revising our current position on net zero by 2040 at this stage > Done

- EM to inform RealZero that UKHACC will not partner on the Christmas card > Done
- EM to send joining invitation email and membership benefits document to RM > Done
- RM to set up introduction with Queens Nursing Institute

1. Welcome from the Chair

RS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Trustee introductions for new trustees

RS welcomed newly appointed trustees: Jill Belch and Rodney Morton. JB sent apologies prior to the meeting due to a prior commitment lecturing on air pollution, climate change and health in Boulogne.

All trustees present introduced themselves.

3. Minute from the September meeting

The minute from the September meeting was accepted.

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

- JK to produce a document for the board to approve related to supporting clinical engagement with trusts with questions people could ask, examples from successful campaigns
- Trustees to send suggested questions for exit interview to TK
- Following discussion at the strategy day, it was agreed we will pause the idea of building a library of webinars but instead put an annual request to members to share their webinars/content from the year that we could share on our site
- RS has been liaising with GCHA on NVCD policy development. RS offered to edit their policy which they accepted. RS asked trustees their views on current GCHA position that it does not ask members not to engage in NVCD because it couldn't monitor this. It was agreed RS should edit the policy with that position
- RS and EM have written an editorial for BMJ and The Lancet on COP29 which has been accepted and will be published before COP
- RS is meeting with CSH, FSH and Kings Fund to prepare for meeting with NICE to ensure key asks are clear ahead of the meeting

4. September Director's report

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

- September was a particularly busy month with lots of meetings taking place over the course of the month. It was also a busy month for organisations writing letters and asking for our signature.
- We received a response from Karin Smyth saying she was committed to decarbonising the NHS estate. We replied asking for clarification that the commitment to the NHS reaching net zero across all areas, and not just estates. Robert Jackson, NHS net zero lead for DHSC replied with information and a request to meet, which we are now following up.

Actions:

- EM to share correspondence with DHSC office with trustees

5. Budget update

The September budget vs income/expenditure overview was shared for review on the spreadsheet of the accounts. There were no issues to report.

The main overspend on the account is the payment to accountants which is higher than budgeted. It was agreed that clearer information on the cost of financial service should be requested from the accountant.

Actions:

- EM to liaise with the accountant on clarity of cost of services prior to agreements.

6. Updating the charity register and bank account authorisation

EM has updated the charity register to remove former trustees and is in the process of adding JB and RM.

Every bank payment on our bank account requires two people to authorise. Terry Kemple was previously one of the main authorisers on the bank account. Richard Smith and Rose Gallagher are also named authorisers. We require another trustee to replace Terry as an authoriser. ERoaf agreed to do this.

Actions:

- EM to update charity register with JB and RM details
- EM to add ERoaf as an authoriser on the bank account

7. Times and dates of these meetings

The monthly trustee meeting has generally been held at 2.30-4.30pm on the second Thursday. We agreed to continue with this time in 2025 subject to agreement with JB.

RCPsych has agreed to host the council meeting on 18 September 2025. We are still seeking a date for the March meeting. It was suggested we should ask BMA.

Actions:

- EM to check Thursday meeting dates/time with JB
- 2025 executive committee calendar invites to be circulated to trustees
- RS/EM to ask BMA about hosting the March meeting hosting
- Diary invite hold for 2025 council meetings to be sent to trustees

8. Christmas closing

RS proposed we close between Christmas and New Year without requesting staff to take annual leave. Trustees approved this proposal.

Actions:

- UKHACC to close between Christmas and New Year (staff not required to take days as annual leave)

9. New member application: RealZero

An application to join was received from RealZero. The application was shared prior to the meeting and discussed by trustees.

Points noted:

- There is some confusion of overlap between work of RealZero and our work
- If our positions didn't align how we would we manage this?
- If they were to join, would need to coordinate on our 11 commitments and their 7 commitments to ensure they align and avoid confusion
- As an organisation in same area of work there are benefits to have them as belonging in UKHACC rather than diverging further
- RealZero is a different type of organisation to existing members, which are either membership organisations for individuals or organisations and journals

It was agreed to proceed with RealZero joining with acceptance the type of organisation diverges from existing members.

Actions:

- EM to notify members of RealZero's application to join and proceed with formal joining process

10. Council meeting minutes

A draft minute of the Council meeting that took place on 26 September was shared prior to the meeting.

It was noted that the section of the meeting with Chris Gormley was under Chatham House rules and so will be noted as points discussed rather than assigning content to individuals. The Teams meeting recording should also be deleted.

Actions:

- Draft council minutes to be revised to ensure no individual quoted in text
- Final council minutes to be circulated to UKHACC members
- Final council minutes to be shared with Chris Gormley with notification of deletion of recording

11. Strategic planning outputs

Trustees participated in a strategic planning workshop over two days on 25 and 26 September. A summary of the discussion was shared prior to the meeting and presented.

The strategic objectives for 2025 were agreed as:

1. Produce a policy report on climate adaptation to protect health and the health service supported by clear targets and influence and engage with government and others to deliver on the recommendations.
2. Use existing policy positions to influence government and respond when opportunities arise (e.g. Rosebank, food strategy, COP). Map out these opportunities and be prepared to respond.
3. Develop 'how to' guides for each of our commitments supported by case studies and opportunities to share learning between members. Monitor and report on progress in delivering our commitments.
4. Recruit new members and retain existing members through ongoing communications

and engagement.

5. Secure funding to support project and policy work.
6. Maintain governance, management and existing communications. Recruit a new Chair.

The strategic objectives were agreed by trustees and will now be shared with members for feedback before signing off at the November meeting. The presentation slides summarising the strategic planning workshop will also be shared with members.

Actions:

- EM to share strategic planning presentation slides and objectives with members for feedback before sign off at the executive committee meeting in November

12. Meeting of fundraising committee

The fundraising committee met on 2 October. The notes from the meeting can be viewed [here](#). Initial focus of work is developing the pitch for recruiting new members and a funding proposal for supporting our Commitments project.

RS has been in correspondence with Dale Vince, founder of Ecotricity, to send a copy of our food report and asked if he would be interested in providing resource. He responded quickly and we have a meeting tomorrow.

13. 2024 Lancet Countdown UK policy brief

Over the last number of weeks we have worked with a group involving Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, Royal College of Nursing, and BMA to produce the Lancet Countdown UK policy brief. A final draft has been shared for approval.

RS and ER have both read and approved subject to active travel being added alongside 'public transport'. Change order of 'Climate resilient and low carbon health systems'.

We do not have the final date for publishing but it will be the end of this month.

Actions:

- Active travel and 'climate resilient' amendment to be made and the final version of the Lancet Countdown policy brief and then sent to Lancet Countdown for production

14. Greener Palliative Care Award - Endorsement request

We received a request for endorsement from the Greener Palliative Care Award programme. The concept has been developed to mirror the GreenED scheme established by the Royal College of Emergency Medicine. RS and EM also met with the group behind the project to discuss its objectives and how it works.

RS has reviewed the request and recommended endorsement.
JK reviewed the request and recommended endorsement.

Actions:

- RS/EM to notify the Greener Palliative Care Award of our endorsement

15. Statement on criminalisation of protesters

We received a request to issue a statement in relation to the excessive sentencing of some climate protesters.

Points noted were:

- In light of resources available it may be more appropriate to share other statements than producing one of our own.
- Feels like an action that would need wider approval of our council
- If we do it, it might encourage others to do it. This is a climate specific issue that is within our remit and we could influence others
- Feel cautious about it, if we were doing a statement, we would want lawyers to be involved

Actions:

- EM/RS to continue discussion on producing a statement related to convictions of protesters in balance of resource and existing information available

16. Is net zero by 2040 the wrong target

We have been challenged by Scientists for Global Responsibility on our current policy recommendation for all countries to achieve net zero emissions by 2040.

Points noted were:

- Grateful for the detailed communication that has been received
- Trustees agree to retain our existing position

Actions:

- RS to reply to Scientists for Global Responsibility saying we will not be revising our current position on net zero by 2040 at this stage

17. Real Zero christmas card

We have been asked to partner with RealZero on a christmas card that depicts frightening images of a climate future but with a positive message to encourage action. The images that will be used in the campaign were shared with trustees.

Real Zero has already shared the Christmas card with all UKHACC members who attended the dinner in March, but has asked us to add our backing to the campaign by adding our logo and encouraging all our members to get involved.

Points noted were:

- Concern about the sensitivity of the images for people who may be already impacted, for example homes lost to flooding, businesses impacted by wildfires, etc.
- Evidence suggests positive messages and presenting positive futures is more likely to drive behaviour change
- Odd thing to send a christmas card if promoting sustainability and could bring potential backlash
- Might work better to work on something together in the future to agree key messages together

It was agreed UKHACC will not partner on the Christmas card.

Actions:

- EM to inform RealZero that UKHACC will not partner on the Christmas card

18. Potential members

- Royal College of Midwives is considering membership - discussing with their executive team
- Jackie Gordon (RCOT) presenting to AHP network on 9 January
- British Cardiovascular Society has expressed an interest and communication ongoing
- Meeting scheduled with Royal College of Pathologists
- Queens Nursing Institute might be a potential member. RM agreed to set up an introduction.

Actions:

- EM to send joining invitation email and membership benefits document to RM
- RM to set up introduction with Queens Nursing Institute

19. Conflicts of interest

No issues were raised

20. Risk register

The risk register was shared prior to the meeting. No additional changes were requested.

21. Any other business

JK: In future, it may be useful to produce a consensus of what we believe in terms of the science? What we think about 1.5C, relationship with IPCC reports, etc. There is still a lot of ambiguity so it would be good to have consensus of what is happening.

22. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held online at 14.30-16.30 Thursday 14 November 2024