



Minutes of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change Trustee Board Meeting

Held online 9 October 2025, 14.30-16.30

Present: Sandy Mather (co-Chair, UKHACC), Elaine Mulcahy (Director, UKHACC), Emma Radcliffe (GP), Rose Gallagher (RCN), Eleanor Roaf (FPH), Rodney Morton (FNF), Chris Banks (Treasurer), Jill Belch (RCPE), Andrew Mackenzie (TPS), Sandy Robertson (RCEM)

Apologies for absence: Hugh Montgomery (co-Chair, UKHACC), Ranee Thakar (RCOG)

Summary of actions:

- SM/HM to invite Richard Smith to be an ambassador > Done
- SM/HM to initiate strategic planning development (pre-workshop) > Done
- ERoa and SR to confirm availability at FPH/RCEM as a venue for the November workshop > Done
- EM to circulate potential dates for February strategic planning workshop > Done
- EM to cancel 26 March booking at RCPSCG > Done
- EM to ask RCPSCG about availability for February workshop date once date confirmed > Done
- EM to notify UKHACC members of council meeting online on 26 March > Done
- SM/HM to invite Richard Smith to lunch on 6 November > Done
- EM to collate feedback from trustees to share with the CHS team and ask if this can be incorporated > Done
- EM to send a reminder email for signatures on the NICE letter on 13 October, reinforcing importance of senior representation > Done
- EM to send letter to NICE during week commencing 20 October > Done
- Task and finish group involving EM, AM, ERad and SM to be established to review the risk register layout > In progress
- ERoa/EM to discuss potential FPH registrar project > In progress
- SM/HM to produce paper on governance arrangement between UKHACC and Real Zero > In progress
- Trustees were asked to consider the frequency of these meetings (do they need to be monthly or could they be every second month). This will be discussed at the strategic planning workshop

Carried forward from previous meetings

- EM to draft exit feedback questionnaire for leaving members following the 2025/6 renewal campaign
- ERoa to update on ADPH strategic planning following September meeting

1. Welcome and introductions

SM welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

Trustees introduced themselves and the organisations they represent. They also said one thing they think UKHACC is doing well:

- For a small organisation we punch well above our weight. We should continue and celebrating this
- Policy reports of high quality and developing a reputation
- Partnerships and coordination work
- Being brave and saying things that our members can't or won't say
- Excellent in documents and renowned for robust evidence base
- Attack different issues and don't just focus on one
- Good feedback from members
- Strategic influence at different levels
- Clinicians on ground hold resources UKHACC produces in high regard
- Fantastic range of expertise and disciplines across the trustee board, and its a safe space to have a conversation
- Open and supportive of people early on in careers
- Letters to politicians powerful and persuasive and have gone a long way to pushing the sustainability journey forward
- Knowledge and scope of expertise and the papers UKHACC has produced
- Communications and engagement with our members

2. Conflicts of interest

No Conflicts of interest were declared.

3. Minute and actions 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

- EM notified trustees that we did not respond to the Scottish Government climate plan due to lack of time to complete the consultation. JB submitted a response on behalf of RCPEdinburgh

STRATEGY

4. Proposal to ask Richard Smith to be an ambassador

SM proposed former Chair Richard Smith to be invited to be an ambassador for UKHACC. There was a unanimous board agreement.

Actions:

- SM/HM to invite Richard Smith to be an ambassador

5. Strategic planning workshops

SM thanked trustees for completing the doodle poll regarding dates for strategic planning.

Proposal

Take the opportunity of new co-chairs to refresh and update our strategy.

The strategic planning workshops will focus on two key areas:

- Reviewing our priorities
- Looking at our governance and how we use expertise to deliver responsibilities

Points noted:

- Council meeting can go ahead online with SM as chair
- Preference that both chairs are present at the strategic planning workshops
- Better to get a date in the diary sooner rather than later
- RCPSG to be asked about February venue availability. RCPEdin a second option if RCPSG not available
- EM/RM to discuss capacity for RM to join (noting flight and time considerations for travelling from NI)

Process agreed

1. Initial phase from now until 6 November completed over email
2. First strategic planning workshop in person 9.30-14.30 6 November for those able to attend (8 out of 12)
3. Outcomes of initial meeting circulated with all trustees for further development
4. Second strategic planning workshop in February 2026 to complete the process

Actions:

- SM/HM to initiate strategic planning development (pre-workshop)
- ERoa and SR to confirm availability at FPH/RCEM as a venue for the November workshop
- EM to circulate potential dates for February strategic planning workshop
- EM to cancel 26 March booking at RCPSG. Ask about availability for February workshop date once date confirmed
- EM to notify UKHACC members of council meeting online on 26 March
- SM/HM to invite Richard Smith to lunch on 6 November

PERFORMANCE

6. September Director's report

The September Director's report was shared prior to the meeting and approved.

Points noted were:

- EM recently presented at the Net zero NHS Scotland conference. There was a presentation by Healthcare Improvement Scotland and SIGN regarding development of environmental sustainability principles to be considered in assessments. EM has asked for the work to be shared with UKHACC for feedback. It was noted that a lot of guidelines are co-SIGN and NICE - might be a way to get more of this work into NICE. Need to continue keeping the pressure on NICE
- Scotland and Wales manifestos were published and sent to party leaders. We received a response from Scottish Labour Party leader Anas Sarwar's office saying our suggestions would be considered in the development of their manifesto which will be published in early 2026.

7. Finance update

The September accounts were approved.

Points noted were:

- All 2024 subscriptions invoices have now been paid
- Members have been notified of the 3.5% subscriptions increase for 2026
- The application for HMRC Charity (Gift Aid) has been submitted (this can take up to six weeks)

- CB recommended to trustees we approve accounts

8. Membership recruitment and retention

As of 31 October 2025, we have 54 members.

- RCNi has already advised they will not renew their membership in 2026 due to a merger with RCN.
- A meeting was held with Asthma+Lung UK on 17 September. They are now considering it.
- A meeting with Association for Laboratory Medicine took place on 8 October. They are taking the decision to their board.
- ERad is attending a British Dietetic Association event on 21 October to encourage them to join.
- A meeting with DiabetesUK is scheduled for 28 October

9. 2024-25 Climate and Health Scorecard questionnaire

The updated CHS scorecard has been published.

We had asked if we could have a look at the audit before it went live but it has gone live without our input. Two versions are available - one for large and one for small organisations. We previously agreed to pay CHS £100 per member for using the scorecard to audit UKHACC members against our Commitments.

Points noted:

- It is used to assess if organisations are progressing towards our commitments
- Something flexible enough to show organisations are delivering action but recognising challenges and limitations
- This is the third year of the questionnaire and the continuity of monitoring progress is important
- £100 for each of our members to get a report is good value
- The second questionnaire for small organisations needs to expand out to include more than orgs that have employees (e.g. an organisation with up to 10 staff is very different to a royal college with 100 staff). Need to feed this back to them.
- The question about insurance policies seems an excessive question for the purpose of our commitments. Is it really needed?
- The overall scorecard goes over and above our commitments.
- It is quite daunting to fill in. The length might put people off. If people don't reply can we go back with a more minimal one to them?
- It is more stringent than previous version and will be harder to get a good score
- Non completion rate is a risk
- List of organisations that did not complete the scorecard is not ideal - seen as too much and not sure of the point of it
- The idea behind this audit came from the enthusiasm of our members at a previous council meeting.
- RCGP initially didn't do well, invested in it and then moved to the top and was very proud of it. This is a positive aspect of how legal tables can drive action
- RCN has been through and has shared feedback with EM
- Disappointed we didn't see version before when we asked for it

- Some of the scoring is very black and white and there is no 'in progress'
- The request to share carbon footprint reports - it is not reasonable to submit documents and details to another organisation. What are they going to do with this information and is there a confidentiality agreement in place? A level of pragmatism is needed, it will not be possible to just hand over sensitive information
- Excessive detail - should only ask for detail they are going to use
- Need to feedback to details

Actions:

- EM to collate feedback from trustees to share with the CHS team and ask if this can be incorporated

10. Co-signed letter to NICE

The co-signed letter to NICE was circulated to UKHACC membership organisations on Friday 3 October. Comms/policy leads were also updated and asked to encourage signing within their organisations at the monthly meeting on 6 October. The deadline for signing is 17 October.

Points noted:

- IMechEng also plans to send a letter to NICE
- RCEM will highlight point about SIGN to RCEM
- Need to push for the biggest organisations to sign the letter

Action:

- EM to send a reminder email for signatures on the NICE letter on 13 October, reinforcing importance of senior representation
- EM to send letter to NICE during week commencing 20 October

11. Lancet Countdown UK policy brief

The UK policy brief is nearing completion and is expected to be signed off by LC and working group members over the next two weeks.

A launch event will be held in London on 30 October. EM has been asked to speak at the meeting, which will be followed by a private dinner. An invitation has been circulated to trustees.

ASSURANCE

12. Risk register

The risk register was discussed with the following points noted:

- Last updated in August 2025
- Reviewed and updated quarterly
- Best practice is to include the score before and after mitigation
- Political risk may need to go up, but be wary of overanalysing
- Resilience along with sustainability is key for messaging

Actions:

- Task and finish group involving EM, AM, ERad and SM to be established to review the risk register layout

13. Any other business

A [statement](#) in response to the NHS net zero five year report was published on 26 September.

FPH faculty work on applying the smoking cessation framework to fossil fuels has been accepted for the WHO pavillion at COP30

FPH registrar is interested in following up post COP work as part of a project with UKHACC. ERoa will update on this after COP

Clarity around the governance arrangement with Real Zero was requested. SM advised that a one pager is currently being worked on to explain how this relationship will be managed. HM is seeking to support UKHACC administrative work through the secondment of staff from Real Zero.

Actions:

- ERoa/EM to discuss potential FPH registrar project
- SM/HM to produce paper on governance arrangement between UKHACC and Real Zero

14. Review of the meeting

Participants reflected on the meeting, noting the following points:

- The early finish was welcomed
- The layout, clarity and focused agenda was welcomed
- The roundtable system and ensuring everyone contributed was welcomed
- Getting the right balance on the agenda to ensure trustees keep informed of work delivered while focusing on strategy and governance will be important going forward
- More about the business of the organisation rather than philosophy behind the papers is a good thing

Action

- Trustees were asked to consider the frequency of these meetings (do they need to be monthly or could they be every second month). This will be discussed at the strategic planning workshop

15. Next meeting

Strategic planning workshop 9.30-14.30 Thursday 6 November 2025.

The next meeting will be held online at 14.30-16.30 Thursday 13 November 2025.