

GENERAL OSTEOPATHIC COUNCIL

Minutes of the 62nd meeting of the General Osteopathic Council held in public on
Thursday 23 April 2009 at 11.30 at Osteopathy House, 176 Tower Bridge Road,
London, SE1.

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Chairman: Professor Adrian Eddleston

Present:

Geraldine Campbell	Brian McKenna
John Chuter	Kenneth McLean
Paula Cook	Robin Shepherd
Jonathan Hearsey	Julie Stone
Nick Hounsfeld	Fiona Walsh
Professor Ian Hughes	Jenny White
Kim Lavelly	

In attendance:

Evlynne Gilvarry, Chief Executive & Registrar (CE)
Alan Currie, Head of Registration and MIS
Marcus Dye, Professional Standards Manager
Matthew Redford, Head of Finance & Administration
Velia Soames, Head of Regulation
Brigid Tucker, Head of Communications

Jane Quinnell, Clerk to Council

1. Members were welcomed to the refurbished Osteopathy House for the first meeting of the newly appointed Council, following the coming into force of the GOsC (Constitution) Order 2009 on 1 April 2009.

APOLOGIES

2. There were no apologies.

QUESTIONS FROM OBSERVERS

3. There were no observers

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

4. Subject to clarification in paragraph 9 of the Minutes of the meeting of 10 March 2009, that attendance at the regional consultation events would be useful for all members' own continuing professional development, the Minutes were signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

5. Joint Regulators Public and Patient Involvement Group The former Council member, Paul Sommerfeld, had represented the GOsC on this Group and consideration needed to be given to how the organisation would be represented on the group in the future. The proposal was that, for the short term, a pragmatic way forward would be to ensure representation through attendance at meetings by a staff member. Brigid Tucker, Head of Communications would attend (or nominate somebody from within her team). Pending the level of productivity of the group, the Council would be asked to nominate a lay member representative in due course – **Agreed**.
6. Care Quality Commission (CQC) The CQC was the new independent regulator of health and social care and mental health care in England. The CQC had indicated that it did not consider that osteopaths fell within its remit at present. However, this situation could change with changing patterns of practice by osteopaths. The GOsC would keep the position closely under review and would liaise periodically with senior figures at the CQC. A watching brief would also be kept on the equivalent organisations in Northern Ireland (Northern Ireland Social Care Council), Scotland (Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care) and Wales (Healthcare Inspectorate Wales).
7. National Council for Osteopathic Research (NCOR) The GOsC proposed to carry out a thorough review of governance arrangements with NCOR as part of its development of a comprehensive research strategy for the organisation.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

8. Education Committee – external members Professor Eddleston confirmed that he, along with Professor Ian Hughes and Jit Jethwa, an Independent Assessor through the Appointments Commission, had interviewed 12 candidates from a very impressive list of 30 applicants for the 4 external members of the Education Committee. Six candidates were considered appointable and the following 4 were selected:

Dr Jane Fox	Rob McCoy (osteopath)
Professor Bernardette Griffin	Liam Stapleton.
9. Regional Consultation Events Two meetings had taken place so far – Birmingham and Glasgow with approximately 80 delegates at each meeting. The next meeting was at Gatwick with over 300 delegates registered so far. The written consultation was going on in tandem with the regional meetings and was attracting a good response. Once the regional meetings were completed, a brief synopsis of the major points coming out of the meetings would be prepared. Abi Masterson, independent consultant, was carrying out an analysis of the responses from the meetings.
10. All staff concerned with the regional meetings were thanked for their hard work.

11. Appraisals for Council members Professor Eddleston would contact all Council members by telephone to discuss what they wanted to achieve in their first year, both in terms of Council and committee duties. This would provide a basis for the first appraisals which would be take place towards the end of the first year of appointment.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

12. Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) The final Performance Review Report was not yet available and it was hoped it would be published in early May.
13. Section 29 Case This was now concluded, having been the subject of a consent order, the terms of which would be circulated to members. Members had been kept informed of the progress of the case throughout, by email. However the need to act promptly to agree the consent order meant that there was no possibility of waiting to discuss the matter at a full meeting of the Council. Instead, the decision was taken by the Chair, on the advice of the Chief Executive and in close consultation with the Treasurer. Professor Eddleston confirmed that he had asked the Executive to review the circumstances of the case and a report had been prepared. This would be made available to the newly appointed Fitness to Practise Committees' Chairs.
14. Non-statutory committees The terms of reference for these committees had been drafted and submitted to the Chairs for their consideration. Final terms of reference would be sent to members in due course.
15. Governance documentation The review of the governance documentation was in the final stages. The final draft governance handbook would be sent to members for consideration. The electronic members' area would contain the governance documentation and other documents necessary to facilitate the work of Council and committee members. Members would be given password access to the site.
16. Online working practices. The CE&R proposed, as part of the GOsC's move progressively to on-line working, that a trial 'paperless' Council meeting would be undertaken in December. All papers for this meeting would be posted on the members' area and no hard copies would be sent by mail. Hard copies would, however, be available to those who needed them on the day of the meeting. The new website was due to come online on the weekend of 25/26 April and members were asked to let the Communications Department have any views/feedback. The possibility of circulating Council and committee papers on encrypted memory sticks was being researched as part of enhancing data security.
18. Osteopathic Educational Institutions (OEs) The programme of regular meetings with the OEs would continue and the OEs would be involved at the early stages of developing policy .

OSTEOPATHY HOUSE REDEVELOPMENT REPORT

19. The refurbishment of Osteopathy House was completed on time and under budget. The staff had remained on the premises throughout the project. Council thanked all staff for their patience and goodwill during the works and the Head of Finance was particularly complemented for his management of the project.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

20. CRM Database Tenders had been received and a panel, including the Treasurer, had interviewed all bidders for the project. IRIS had been appointed to begin the project in May.

QUESTIONS FROM OBSERVERS

21. There were no observers present.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

22. Wednesday 15 July at 10.00am.

AFTERNOON SESSION

23. The Council participated in a session - part of the induction and training programme - where key stakeholders made short presentations on their areas of work, followed by questions and answers. The order of presentations was as follows:

COUNCIL FOR HEALTHCARE REGULATORY EXCELLENCE

Harry Cayton, Chief Executive

BRITISH OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

Mathew Cousins, President, and Catherine Goodyear, Chief Operating Officer

GOsC COMMITTEES

Education Committee – Ian Hughes, Chair

Finance & General Purposes Committee – John Chuter, Chair and Treasurer

Remuneration Committee – Adrian Eddleston, Chair

Audit Committee – Nigel Clarke, Chair

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR OSTEOPATHIC RESEARCH (NCOR)

Professor Ann Moore, Chair of NCOR

NIGEL CLARKE - 'The voice of the public in regulatory governance: the lay member'

KEY ISSUES IN OSTEOPATHIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING

ESO	Adrian Barnes	LCOM	Dr Richard Gribble
BSO	Charles Hunt	College of Osteopaths	Patricia Hamilton
BCOM	Dr Ian Drysdale	SIOM	Mark Foster
OBU	Graham Sharman and Laurence Kirk	LSO	Robin Kirk and Fiona Hamilton

Professor Adrian Eddleston

15 July 2009