

Minutes of the Scottish Health Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 1st October 2009
in Meeting Room 1, 4th Floor, Delta House, Glasgow

Present:	Brian Beacom MBE	Chairman
	Agnes Robson	Council Member
	Anne Brown	Council Member
	Steve Graham	Council Member
	Pauline Hamilton	Council Member
	Lorna Hutcheson	Council Member
	David Weatherill	Council Member
	Jacquie Malcolm	Council Member
	Elizabeth Craig	Council Member
In Attendance:	Richard Norris	Director
	Linda Bickerton	PA to Director and Chairman
Apologies:	Irene Garden	Council Member
	Dr Frances Elliot	Chief Executive NHSQIS

1. Welcome and Apologies

Action

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chairman also introduced Elizabeth Craig our new Council Member. Elizabeth joins us as a replacement for Margaret Fiskien who had decided not to extend her term of appointment. The Chairman went on to explain that due to the organisational changes taking place when Quality Improvement Scotland becomes Health Improvement Scotland all appointments to the Scottish Health Council would cease on the 31st March 2011. At the moment no one knows what the process will be for appointing members to the Council beyond March 2011 but it is expected that a Shadow Board will be formed in advance of the HIS transition to deal with these issues.

This assumes that the Public Services Reform Bill gets passed and the anticipated timetable is adhered to. Further discussion on this subject will be covered in the Private Session.

2. Chairman's Report and Annual Review Update

The Chairman presented feedback from his attendance at recent meetings and events.

2.1 QIS Board Meeting/NHS Chairs Meeting – both in Edinburgh

Both these meetings included interesting discussions on funding. Whilst the Government have made it clear that the Health Service will not have any cuts they are also saying that there will not be the same uplift as in previous years. There will be constraints and everyone will need to demonstrate that what they are doing is good value for money.

2.2 Meeting with Andrew MacLeod

The Chairman met with Andrew MacLeod, Head of our Sponsors Division with regard to the correspondence between Andrew and Sir Graham Teesdale regarding Governance. This had been a good meeting incorporating discussion on the Public Services Reform Bill. These one to one meetings allow a better understanding of each other's point of view.

2.3 Audit Committee Meeting

A Staff Survey undertaken by QIS had been a discussion item at this meeting. The results from this showed some difference between Scottish Health Council staff and QIS staff. As this survey had been undertaken in November last year when we'd just gone through the Independent Review process it is likely that this had an effect on responses from Scottish Health Council staff. Richard Norris has been asked to prepare a response for the Audit Committee to outline the staff perception then and now.

Submission on Public Services Reform Bill

2.4

The Chairman confirmed that himself and Richard Norris had attended a Parliamentary session on the Public Services Reform Bill to give evidence. A paper copy of an excerpt had been circulated and full details of the evidence sessions can be found on the Scottish Government website.

Scottish Health Awards

2.5

The Chairman confirmed that he had been asked to serve on the Judging Panel for these awards sponsored by the Daily Record. The event to present the awards was scheduled for 11th November in Edinburgh.

Annual Review

2.6

The Chairman reprised his speech and the slideshow presentation which was put forward at the Annual Review. Shona Robison commented on the fact that she had a very positive private meeting that morning and received good feedback on the work of the Scottish Health Council over the past year. The Annual Review had been recorded on video this year and the full meeting could now be viewed on the Scottish Health Council website.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 13th August 2009.

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th August 2009 were approved by Council as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

None.

5. Finance Update

The Director explained that a notes section had been added to show the expenditure we are projecting for later on in the year.

With regard to note 4 the £35,000 allocated to website development will not be spent this year and redistribution of this budget item will need to be looked at. We are currently updating the website using internal resources therefore the costs involved are much less.

David Weatherill commented that this finance report is a huge improvement on some of the previous reporting methods and that the addition of targeted notes was very helpful.

6. Director's Report

This had been circulated previously for information. The Director expanded on the staff survey results which suggested staff were less positive on average than QIS staff. On investigation it transpired that there were various reasons for this. The timing had been when the Independent Review Report came out but the Action Plan had not been developed at that point. Therefore staff were feeling uncertain at the time. Also many of the questions were considered ambiguous and referred to QIS therefore staff were unsure how to answer some of the questions.

The Chairman explained that we were continuing to speak to staff and would look at the results coming out from the next survey to establish whether there are any ongoing problem areas.

7. Participation Standard Update

The Director gave a brief update on progress with the Participation Standard and thanked everyone for their comments and input into the development process. At the moment the Scottish Government are saying that this is unlikely to be a HEAT target but it is still under discussion at present. Boards are all signed up for the Standard but there is still a lot of detail to cover and we need to think through carefully how this will work in practice.

8. Workplan Update Paper

This paper had been circulated previously. Overall the Council agreed they were happy with the paper although there was no indication of whether particular aspects had been concluded, commenced or still in progress – i.e. a type of traffic light system to show an at a glance status.

9. Public Consultation on Pharmacy Applications

A paper had been circulated previously but the Chairman explained the background more fully. Boards had brought to our attention that they were being advised to consult with the Scottish Health Council whenever there was a request to open a new pharmacy. The Director will speak with Scottish Government to clarify the situation so that we can issue appropriate guidelines to our staff.

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10. Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting date is Thursday 3rd December 2009 and a schedule of dates for 2010 was distributed

Owing to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed the public and press will be excluded from the next part of the meeting.

The public meeting was then closed.

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Beacom". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Chairman of the Scottish Health Council

Date: 3 December 2009