



Principal Executive Committee

5 December 2018

Report to country councils and standing committees

Summary

The Principal Executive Committee (PEC) met on 5 December 2018. This report contains a summary of the issues discussed.

Strategic plan

Each meeting of the PEC from now on will focus on the progress of the new three year strategy, expressed in six themes: 'Enhance our local service offerings to members'; 'Develop holistic CPD solutions for dentists and their teams'; 'Explore professional indemnity provision for dentists'; 'Provision of more focussed and appropriate content to engage with members'; 'Re- design our approaches to governance, representation and policy assimilation'; and 'Continued close - monitoring of development within corporate dentistry'.

This meeting considered a presentation on the development of education services within the three year strategy period; and topics to cover in wider engagement on potential reforms to governance and representation.

Reporting at our meetings has been restructured to minimise the reporting of operational detail, and to maintain our focus as a board on the strategic priorities we have set. This also reflects staff within the Association working across teams, with less 'silo' working, and focussed on their relevant strategic theme. We welcome this development; it will help to keep the whole organisation energised around the achievement of our plans.

Ethics and Professional Conduct Committee

We received feedback on the PEC's decision to create an Ethics and Professional Conduct Committee. We agreed proposals by the UK Council's Scrutiny Committee, that the composition of the committee, and an appeals version, should be drawn at the time required from a trained pool of PEC and UK Council members. Such an approach is designed to exclude any conflicts of interest (for example if a member of the PEC was subject to a complaint, the forum should not constitute a PEC majority).

We anticipate that this committee will rarely be required, but it ensures that we have a properly constituted forum for where any accusations of unethical or inappropriate behaviour by members can be referred, and fairly assessed.

Benevolent Fund

The Executive Committee of the Benevolent Fund and the PEC are working together to produce proposals for modernising the governance of the Benevolent Fund, for consideration at the Fund's AGM in 2019. We considered drafts from the Executive Committee and agreed feedback and further engagement for finalising the proposals in due course.

Guidance for members undertaking treatment using nitrous oxide

We received a report from the UK Council regarding a discussion at their recent meeting about conscious sedation guidelines and monitoring requirements for nitrous oxide throughout the UK. The UK Council's consideration of the matter had been prompted by a motion passed at the Accredited Representatives (AR) conference expressing concern about the exposure of dental staff to lower than safe levels of nitrous oxide in 'several community clinics and hospitals'. The AR conference motion did not specify the names of any organisations which might be failing to comply with published guidelines, although we are aware of a nitrous oxide incident in Northern Ireland in 2016. The BDA's Compliance Team has sought clarification from the four CDOs about guidelines.

We concluded in our discussion that the issues raised in the AR motion and in the UK Council discussion required a focus on the health and safety requirements around monitoring and the Compliance Team have been asked to develop guidelines for members.

Reports

We received reports from Roz McMullan in her capacity as Chair of the United Kingdom Council; and Henrik Overgaard Nielsen on issues within the remit of the General Dental Practice Committee.

Other items included reports from the BDA in Wales, Northern Ireland, and Scotland; the President's report; a report by the Chair of the Audit Committee, regarding the meeting of the Audit Committee in October; and a report from the Acting Chief Executive covering activity across the Association since the last meeting of the PEC.

Mick Armstrong
Chair, Principal Executive Committee

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