

**MINUTES OF THE RADIOTHERAPY ADVISORY GROUP (RAG) HELD ON TUESDAY 9TH
OCTOBER 2012, AT THE OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY OF CHIROPODISTS & PODIATRIST, 1
FELLMONGER'S PATH, TOWER BRIDGE ROAD, LONDON SE1 3LY**

PRESENT:

- Kate Burton {KB}
- Lesley Cairns {LC}
- Hazel Colyer {HC}
- Linda Gordon {LG}
- Russell Hart {RH}
- Sheila Hassan {SH} {Chair}
- Denyse Hodgson {DH}
- Susan Lamb {SL}
- Julie Massey {JM}
- Bernadette McCarthy {BMC}
- Julie Owens {JO}
- Karen Smith {KS}
- Gaile Smyth {GS}

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Charlotte Beardmore {CB}
- Sarah James {SJ}
- Valerie Asemah {VA} {Minutes}

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the group and round table introductions were made, but especially for the benefit of Linda Gordon (Clinical Oncology Services Manager, Torbay Hospital).
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were received from Kate Love, Christine Richards and Noreen Sinclair.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2.1 Subject to an amendment of one typographical error the minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2012, were approved as a true and accurate copy.
- 2.2 CB informed the group that Louise Coleman, who has taken over as Education Officer will be in charge of the advanced practice/practitioner accreditation work from Sean Kelly. It is in the process of being updated and the group will receive a progress report at the next RAG meeting.

3. NCAT IMPROVING STUDENT RETENTION PROJECT

- 3.1 HC gave a presentation on the NCAT student retention project.

4. UPDATE ON KEY ISSUES FROM UK COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES

- 4.1 **England: National Radiotherapy Report Publication 2012:** CB gave an update to the group. It was noted that the government is planning to invest fifteen million pounds for the use of IMRT across the NHS. Radiotherapy experts will work with Cancer Research UK. CB will be attending a meeting with the DH and Cancer UK next week.
- 4.2 **Scotland** LC gave an overview of the current situation on Scotland, which highlighted the current significant waiting times for patients referred for RT at Glasgow. CB offered support from the SCoR if required, to raise this issue at all appropriate levels in order to secure effective future plans to address this issue.

POST MEETING NOTE: This issue was followed up with the professional office

- 4.3 **Northern Ireland:** GS gave an update on the radiotherapy situation in Northern Ireland, informing the group that the regional expansion programme is ongoing in Belfast and the rest of the country.
- 4.4 **Wales:** BMC gave an update on the state of radiotherapy in Wales indicating that IMRT implementation across Wales is slowly progressing.

5. UPATE FROM RADIOTHERAPY MANAGERS MEETING

- 5.1 Linda Gordon (Clinical Oncology Services Manager, Torbay Hospital) gave an update to RAG from the Managers meeting which took place earlier this year.

A presentation on student attrition was given by Julie Massey where managers discussed the issues and ideas about how this situation can be improved.

There were queries as to why accreditation is only available to the members of SCoR. CB confirmed that SCoR policy is that as a professional, individuals should wish to be a member and therefore, accreditation is available to them as a benefit of membership.

Although membership is continuing to grow month by month, it appears that some of the younger students are not taking up membership. SJ and CB are currently working with regional officers to push forward recruitment.

Departmental visits discussed – most departments take prospective students and were happy to do so.

Several managers have found that some of their staff are not registered with the HCPC. It was suggested that managers should, on a regular basis, check that their staff are registered.

The North West Region is planning to host the next meeting although a date and venue have yet to be identified.

6. UPDATE REPORT – IGRT PROGRAMME

6.1 CB updated the group. Work is ongoing and regular updates can be found in Synergy.

7. RCR CLINICAL AUDIT COMMITTEE

7.1 No report as KL was unable to attend today's meeting. It was agreed that VA would contact her to find out if she has any information to give to the group.

ACTION: VA

8. TO NOTE THE FOLLOWING RADIOTHERAPY SIGs AND WORKING GROUPS

8.1 The following working groups were noted:

- SIGs
- IGRT and Superficial Radiotherapy
- Breast
- Brachtherapy
- Paediatric

- Group
- Macmillan Radiographer Group. This group is currently considering becoming a SIG. CB and SJ also confirmed that they are in contact with editorial staff from both Macmillan Cancer Support and CRUK to discuss the content of their radiotherapy patient information resources with view to ensuring it accurately reflects the current clinical situation with regard to the delivery of radiotherapy.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 HC enquired of the group if they knew of any colleagues she could approach in regard to getting articles for a special edition on paediatrics for the radiography journal.

To note that Marianne Hardy will be leading on this special edition. SH will mention this at the next regional study day on 20th October 2012.

ACTION: ALL

9.2 KS who sits on the Awards Committees of Student of the Year; Radiographer of the Year and Team of the Year mentioned that some regions of the country are doing better than others and so wanted the group to encourage their work colleagues to apply for these awards.

ACTION: ALL

- 9.3 CB informed the group that Good Practice Guide for Paediatric Radiotherapy is about to be published. The joint guidance document on Additional Radiotherapy Capacity is currently going through its final stages prior to publication. CB also informed the group that Tim Cooper as part of a team, will be visiting all centres in England with regard to their bids for funds from the Innovation Fund recently announced by the DH.

ACTION: ALL

- 9.4 CB and SJ thanked LG for attending the meeting on behalf of the RTSM group.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 10.1 CB and SJ will circulate dates for 2013 meetings.

ACTION: CB & SJ