

Radiotherapy Advisory Group (RAG) Work plan 2018 - 2019

CONTEXT:

RAG is appointed by UK Council to provide profession specific advice about issues impacting upon therapeutic radiography and its context within cancer services.

Membership of RAG is drawn from a range of practice areas including clinical practitioners, managers, educationalists and researchers across the four UK countries.

RATIONALE:

- Improving outcomes for cancer is a priority for Health Services and a significant component of the government's modernisation agenda for healthcare. Rising incidence and wider recognition of the role of radiotherapy, technological developments and increased consumer expectations have combined to create an urgency to change patterns of practice.
- Therapeutic radiographers and the wider radiotherapy workforce working within this technologically sophisticated care environment must be supported and developed to be able to maximise their individual and collective potential in delivering the best care for people with cancer.
- Since its inception in 1995, RAG has made a significant contribution to the development of the profession and in raising its profile nationally. It is an effective voice for the community of therapeutic radiographers and the wider radiotherapy workforce

RAG OBJECTIVES:

The role of RAG is to provide the Society and College of Radiographers with advice regarding strategic direction for the profession and appropriate support to deliver service improvements within the inter-professional environment of cancer care with a remit of:

- To provide advice and information relating to the continuing education and professional development needs of therapeutic radiographers and the wider radiotherapy workforce and to the pressures and developments of the service.
 - E.g. Developments for quality standards within radiotherapy
 - E.g. Apprenticeship development
 - E.g. Conduit for various Radiotherapy Special Interest Groups RTQSIG
- To promote explicit career development pathways, in line with organisation policy, for therapeutic radiographers and the wider radiotherapy workforce across all aspects of the profession both inside and outside of radiotherapy centres

RAG OBJECTIVES *cont.*

- To facilitate research and guideline development for publication by The Society and College of Radiographers
 - E.g. Achieving World-Class Cancer Outcomes: The Vision for Therapeutic Radiography
Available at: <https://www.sor.org/learning/document-library>
- To represent the organisation in relevant inter-professional forums.
 - E.g. Clinical Oncology Quality Improvement & Audit Committee (COQIAC)
 - E.g. Health Education England Workforce review
- To respond and comment upon documents as requested by the organisation and its officers.
 - E.g. A wide range of National Institute for Clinical Excellence scoping documents, quality standards and guideline updates
 - E.g. Cancer Research UK – non surgical treatment workforce report
<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-us/we-develop-policy/our-policy-on-cancer-services/non-surgical-cancer-treatments-workforce>
 - E.g. All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer report
 - E.g. RT Board- Paperless Top Tips document
 - E.g. HEFCE strategic Interventions project
- To debate policy and evaluate its impact on the profession making representation as necessary
 - E.g. Modernising radiotherapy services in England – proposed NHS England adult radiotherapy service specification
- To promote and support the policy decisions of the organisation.
- To undertake projects/pieces of work on behalf of the organisation and profession as agreed.

TARGETS FOR 2018:

- To continue to undertake the listed objectives with updates and review of feedback from:
 - COQIAC
 - National Cancer Research Institute-CTRAD work streams
 - UK Radiotherapy Board
 - NHS England Clinical Reference Group
 - RePAIR project
 - Educational development meetings E.g. apprenticeship development
 - Various workforce meetings E.g. HEE
 - HEFCE Strategic interventions project
- To promote the role of RAG via an article in Synergy News
Responsible: Spencer Goodman -target date: completion April 2018



- Publication of a guidance document on MRI within Radiotherapy
Responsible: Spencer Goodman – target date: completion March 2018
- Review and update as required current Proton Therapy – Interim Guidance document
Responsible: Spencer Goodman – target date: completion May 2018

ANTICIPATED COSTS:

Approximate costs for the work of the group are:

12 members x 2 meetings a year
Additional work/small group meetings
Supporting member attendance at events

In addition funding may be required to produce promotional materials and publications and support for a study day.

ACHIEVING THE TARGETS:

- RAG is accountable for all its actions to the UK Council of The Society of Radiographers and the Board of Trustees of The College of Radiographers, through the Director of Professional Policy
- The Chair with support from the professional officers of the group will prepare an annual report for SCoR Council