

MINUTES OF THE ULTRASOUND ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON THURSDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2008, AT THE OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY OF RADIOGRAPHERS, 207 PROVIDENCE SQUARE, LONDON SE1 2EW

PRESENT:

Julie Burnage {JB}
Gillian Cattell {GC}
Regina Fernando {RF}
Rosemary Kelso {RK}
Pauline Kilbourn {PK}
Janis Martin {JM}
Crispian Oates {CO}
Rita Phillips {RP}
Lisa Wright {LW}

IN ATTENDANCE:

Audrey Paterson {AMP}
Nigel Thomson {NT}
Valerie Asemah {VA} {Minutes}

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Chair (Gill Dolbear) was unable to attend the meeting, so AMP chaired the meeting. The Chair welcomed everyone to the group especially Nigel Thomson who has replaced Rita Phillips as the Professional Officer for the group. Brief introductions were made.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Anne-Marie Dixon and Gill Dolbear.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 26TH JUNE 2008

- 3.1 Subject to the amendment of typographic errors the minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2008 were approved as a true and accurate record.
- 3.2 NT stated he was not involved in further work with vasa praevia and the previous minutes would be amended to show this.

4. MATTERS ARISING OTHERWISE NOT ON THE AGENDA

- 4.1 Patient Liaison Group *minute 4.1*

It was agreed that NT and AMP would need to get together to discuss and identify items on which members of the PLG could be invited to comment.

ACTION: NT & AMP

4.2 NHS Fetal Anomaly Screening Programme for England Update

There will be a meeting at the RCOG in London on 15th December 2008. AMP and NT have been invited. This meeting is in the form of a series of workshops on different aspects of the programme. The latest draft of the programme has been circulated to UAG members for comment.

5. **ULTRASOUND PRACTICE DOCUMENT**

- 5.1 NT thanked RP for her work on this document which brings together the vision and rationale for ultrasound practice and includes the '4 Tier' career framework structure. RP agreed to continue working on this document. The 4th draft is to be circulated to the group for comment. Group to respond to RP who will then liaise with NT. The Chair thanked the group for their work and indicated that comments should be back to NT by 19th January 2009.

ACTION: NT & GROUP

6. **UPDATE ON SONOGRAPHER REGISTRATION PROJECT**

- 6.1 AMP gave the group an update on the sonographer registration project. She reported that it is still progressing. At the HPC meeting in July 2008 UKAS and SCoR had provided written answers to critical questions and also given a presentation. The Executive is to carry out detailed analysis for the next HPC meeting in December 2008. Hazel Edwards (University of Hertfordshire) was commissioned to do further work to support consideration of the SoR's application in December. AMP will keep the group informed of progress.

7. **WMSAG STANDARDS – TRAINING DOCTORS IN BASIC OBSTETRIC ULTRASOUND**

- 7.1 A query emerged from an email from Anne-Marie Dixon who had concerns about an email from Helena Goldberg. This was discussed fully and it was agreed the SoR/UAG would take no action.

8. **EXTENDED HOURS UNDER AGENDA FOR CHANGE**

- 8.1 Following discussion on the matter hour days presented by JM it was agreed that NT would speak to Lyn Wigley (Health and Safety Officer) for advice on extended day working (12 hour day), and the impact on work related musculo-skeletal disorders.

ACTION: NT

9. **ASSISTANT PRACTITIONER – FOUNDATION LEVEL TRAINING**

- 9.1 GC reported to the group that she had a meeting with Anne Shaw (Professional Officer) and David Cole on the way forward on assistant practitioner foundation level training. It appears that the foundation degree is the best way forward if there is capacity to train them. Dating scans were also discussed and it was perceived as a possible area to move forward in although with great caution and not if nuchal scanning was included in the dating scan. Service providers need to decide if foundation degrees are workable for them. GC reiterated that there are benefits from the foundation degree which are not available from the NVQ.

10. SHA FUNDING FOR SONOGRAPHER TRAINING

- 10.1 GC tabled a report on her local SHA funding strategy for Sonographer Training. The group felt this was a very good model. It was suggested that a feature be put in Synergy News and on the Web Site and in Top Talk highlighting this model. It was agreed that AMP would contact Ann Tonks to see if a link could be set up between the SoR and the SHAs.

ACTION: AMP

11. E-MAIL RELATING TO NSC

- 11.1 This item was discussed with item 7.

12. ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM (AAA) SCREENING SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME

- 12.1 NT informed the group that some comments on the draft workbook had been received. The programme is due for roll out next year. The group discussed the concerns they had and it was noted that greater clarity was required with regards to the scanning guidelines and the staff involved. NT asked that any further comments be forwarded to him by mid December 2008 and he will then feedback to the AAA Screening Committee. AMP to advise on suitable contacts.

ACTION: NT & GROUP

13. USE OF ULTRASOUND EQUIPMENT

- 13.1 PK introduced the Gateshead Trust Ultrasound Equipment Policy which was recently approved by the Trust Board. Everyone who owns or uses ultrasound equipment has to say what it is being used for and for how long. It was noted that the aim of this policy is to ensure that all ultrasound examinations and procedures performed within the Trust are carried out to the highest possible standards by the relevant trained staff and on well maintained equipment.

14. ULTRASOUND CLINICAL GOVERNANCE

- 14.1 Circulated at the same time as the AAA screening document were Clinical Governance Guidelines from the NUSG, a sub-group of the National Imaging Board. These had apparently been finalised and can be found on 'the 18 week watch website'.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 15.1 Fetal Anomaly Screening: A request to help with determining training requirements for fetal heart outflow tract has been received.
- 15.2 UKAS: AMP reported that UKAS is winding up and their last meeting is being held next week. AMP and Neil Williams (Director of Finance) will be attending. UKAS is considering joining the College of Radiographers. An announcement will be made in due course and this group will be expanded with invited UKAS Trustees if a merger goes ahead.
- 15.3 SCoR had been asked to comment and feed in to the Scottish Handheld Maternity Notes consultation and NT gave feedback to the group.

- 15.4 NT informed the group that the pages on the ultrasound section of the website need to be spring cleaned and any wishes and/or concerns should be sent to him as soon as possible.
- 15.5 GC informed the group that this is her last meeting as she has decided to resign from the group. The Chair thanked GC very much for her hard work and contribution to the group over the years.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 16.1 The date of the next meeting were agreed as Thursday 19th March 2009 commencing at 1.00pm (with lunch at 12.30pm)