

NHS Charities Together Regional Chairs Meeting

Notes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25 September 2019

Present: Kate Green (Chair), Victoria Burrows – North West (VB), Tim Diggle – East Mids (TD), Rupert Williamson – Kent & Sussex/SE (RW), Andrew House – Home Counties West (AH), Julio Grau – London (JG), Dave Cates – SW & Avon (DC), Johnny Shah – West Mids (JS), Richard Moremon – South Coast (RM), Sheena Lochay – Scotland (SL), Seb Hargreaves – NHSCT (SH), Tia Shortall – MH & Community (TS), Julie Pink – Home Counties North (JP)

Apologies: Lesley Woodhead (LH), Kirsty Jowett (KJ)

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. Apologies were noted. The Chair outlined the Agenda and asked members to introduce themselves and provide a simple situational report on meetings of their regional group to date. Most members reported having held one or more meetings and some had future meetings scheduled for later in the year. AH commented that that challenge was finding a key topic as a focus for a regional group meeting.

2. Terms of Reference, Chairs Group constitution.

The Chair referred to the revised ToRs for the group and explained that the intention was for this group to replace the current MIG Committee. The intention would be to hold at least one face to face meeting per year, ideally to coincide with future Fundraising MIG Conferences. The Chair explained the importance of this group to provide feedback, help to define future MIG Conference programmes and as a 'sounding board' and reference group for member support initiatives. A suggestion was made for the potential to hold a virtual meeting of the Regional group chairs in addition to the Face to Face meeting.

SH had already circulated the revised ToRs ahead of the meeting. Members were asked to feedback any suggested amendments to SH by 11 Oct so that an out of committee decision could be made to approve the ToRs by the end of October.

Action: All

SH would investigate digital meeting tools and resources to facilitate 'virtual' meetings of the regional chairs group.

Action: SH

3. Update on Regional groups

This agenda item was mainly covered under Item 1 – Introductions. However, a consensus was that Regional Groups were well attended and that they were a useful forum to share information and learning, explore best practice and network with peers to provide peer to peer support. Some members explained how the regional groups had provided a useful support network for them within their role, especially early on when they were new to the NHS charity sector. Members mostly reported having held or planned meetings with their regional group members. Key topics were discussed at these meetings and an opportunity for group members to suggest agenda items, allowed members to have their concerns or challenges discussed. This helped to encourage members to attend and made the meetings a worthwhile use of time.

4. Future of Regional Groups

There was discussion on the type of activity undertaken by regional groups and whether the scope of the groups should be widened to include other charity functions (e.g. Marketing, Communications, Grants, Finance etc) or whether NHS CT should look to establish separate regional groups supporting these functions. JS commented that, outside of London perhaps, there was not a critical mass of large enough NHS charities to make separate regional groups viable. Others commented that many of the other facets of NHS charities were already discussed at their regional meetings because there was a lot of crossover anyway. SH explained that some of the London charities were keen to set up a Marketing & Comms Group. It was agreed that these new 'Special Interest Groups' would be open to all, but that the existing Regional groups could extend their remit to support wider charity functions. This would ensure that support for and attendance at regional groups could be sustained, but separate Special Interest Groups would enable those who wanted to focus more closely on specific areas of NHS charities. The inaugural Marketing & Communications SIG would be held at Barts charity on 7 November.

The Shared Measurement Report had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting. Members were asked to feedback any comments to SH by 18 October.

Action: All

5. AOB/Close

There were no items of other business. The Chair thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 3.10pm before members returned to the main Hall.

Minutes written by: Seb Hargreaves (Membership Support & Development Manager)