SAS COMMITTEE

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF SAS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 19TH JUNE 2014, ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Present:
Mr Erman Melikyan (Co-Chair – in chair) Mr Luke Evans
Mrs Scarlett McNally (Co-Chair) Mrs Salma Naseem

Apologies: Mrs Anuparma Shrotri, Mr Jamil Ahmed,

In attendance:
Ms Clare Wynn-Mackenzie (Secretary)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1. Mrs McNally welcomed committee members and apologies for absence were noted.

1.2. Mrs McNally noted that, because the meeting was not quorate, the meeting would be primarily used to complete committee tasks (items 2 and 3 on the agenda) and that normal meeting structure would resume at the next meeting.

2. SAS NOMENCLATURE AND POSITION STATEMENT

2.1. Mrs McNally noted that the PCS committee had discussed the statement and understood the SAS committee’s concerns. Further, the PCS committee noted:
   - The SAS committee’s remit is to support all surgeons who are not in training and are not consultants
   - Surgeons who are not in formal staff grade, associate specialist or specialty doctor roles also need to be supported
   - It is reasonable to encourage Trusts only to appoint to standard contracts
   - The statement and committee need to recognise other non-standard grades and that they need support.

2.2. Mrs McNally noted the increasing numbers of CCT holders who do not have consultant posts as a growing group of “SAS” grades that need support. Ms Naseem also highlighted those people occupying very short term contracts as in need of support.

2.3. The BMA’s definition of who their SAS committee formally represents was noted: “doctors working in the NHS who are not general practitioners, nor in the training grades and whose posts do not require their names to be on the Specialist Register”
2.4. The committee received a statement featuring proposed changes and accepted these changes.

2.5. **ACTION:** Ms Wynn-Mackenzie to facilitate the publication of the revised statement.

3. **SAS JOB PLANS**

3.1. The committee received a draft of the job planning guidance with changes proposed by committee members highlighted.

3.2. The committee agreed the proposed changes and noted the following additional alterations:
   - The term “SAS” should be replaced with the term “Specialty Doctor” as the guidance is mapped to this contract.
   - A phrase should be included noting that the guidance provided should be used as “an aspiration” for other grades
   - Consideration should be given to including the formal definition of SAS grades (if appropriate or needed)
   - For consistency, all references to the thresholds should be to “before”, “between” or “beyond” a threshold

3.3. **ACTION:** Ms Wynn-Mackenzie to make changes to the document and progress the document’s publication.

4. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

4.1. In the absence of a quorum, the minutes were provisionally accepted, to be reviewed again at the next quorate meeting.

4.2. The following points were noted:
   - Mr Melikyan noted that the Trauma and Orthopaedics SAC has a new Chair. Mr Melikyan intends to raise the issue of whether SAS grades can sign off WBAs at the next SAC meeting next week.
   - Mrs McNally noted that the Academy SAS committee has been quiet for some time. **ACTION:** Ms Wynn-Mackenzie discover whether the Academy SAS committee is still active.
     
     *Post Meeting Note: A new chair of the Academy SAS committee has been appointed and the committee is resuming its normal activities.*

5. **UPDATE ON PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED ITEMS**

5.1. **ISCP availability for SAS Surgeons**
   - The ISCP leadership team are looking at making it easier for SAS grades to access ISCP. It will be voluntary for SAS surgeons to sign up to ISCP. This will be released in ISCP version 10, which is due out in January 2015.
   - The pilot of SAS surgeons using ISCP in Wales is complete and has been evaluated, next steps for Wales are being considered.
• There is general agreement among the ISCP management committee that SAS surgeons should keep a log book or equivalent.

5.2. Recognising SAS Surgeons in HES data
• Following the committee’s letter regarding SAS surgeons being recorded in HES, we have received a reply from Prof Alderson, College Council lead for outcomes. He assures the committee that surgeon of all grades would continue to be considered in this work. He noted that the seemingly “small” change of being able to record the operating surgeon had had significant implications for infrastructure.

5.3. Committee recruitment
• Ms Garg and Mr Ullal have demitted office from the committee as they have reached the end of their tenure.
• Six applications to join the committee were received, interviews had been scheduled.
• Mrs McNally thanked Ms Garg and Mr Ullal for their work for the committee.

5.4. Mrs McNally suggested a photograph of the new committee should be taken at the next meeting.
ACTION: Ms Wynn-Mackenzie to arrange a photograph of the committee to be taken at the next meeting.

6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS
6.1. The next meeting will be held on 12th November 2014