



Council of Deans  
of Health

# Annual Report <sup>2013</sup>

Council of Deans of Health Membership: University of Aberdeen • Abertay University • Anglia Ruskin University • Aston University • University of Bedfordshire • Queen's University Belfast • Birmingham University • Birmingham City University • University of Bolton • Bournemouth University • University of Bradford • University of Brighton • Brunel University • Buckinghamshire New University • Canterbury Christ Church University • Cardiff Metropolitan University • Cardiff University • University of Central Lancashire • University of Chester • City University • University College London • Coventry University • University of Cumbria • University of Derby • De Montfort University • University of Dundee • University of East Anglia • University of East London • Edge Hill University • University of Edinburgh • Edinburgh Napier University • University of Essex • Glasgow University • Glasgow Caledonian University • Glyndwr University • University of Greenwich • University of Hertfordshire • University of the Highlands and Islands • University of Huddersfield • University of Hull • Keele University • King's College London • Kingston University • University of Leeds • Leeds Metropolitan University • University of Lincoln • University of Liverpool • Liverpool John Moores University • London South Bank University • University of Manchester • Manchester Metropolitan University • Middlesex University • Newcastle University • University of Northampton • Northumbria University • University of Nottingham • The Open University • Oxford Brookes University • University of Plymouth • University of Portsmouth • Queen Margaret University • Robert Gordon University • University of Salford • UC Plymouth St Mark & St John • Sheffield Hallam University • University of Sheffield • University of Southampton • University of South Wales • Staffordshire University • University of Stirling • Strathclyde University • University Campus Suffolk • University of Sunderland • University of Surrey • Swansea University • Teesside University • University of Ulster • University of Wales Bangor • University of the West of England • University of West London • University of the West of Scotland • University of Wolverhampton • University of Worcester • University of York • York St John University • Associate members: Institute of Health and Social Care Studies, Guernsey • Department of Health, Isle of Man • Department of Health and Social Services, Jersey



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A year recently described as an 'NHS annus horribilis', punctuated by a series of reports pointing to failures in quality of care, has generated highly politicised and often unpredictable responses – not necessarily aligned to the evidence of report findings. Equally, the lack of predictability of HE policy,

exemplified by the recent unheralded ministerial announcement on removal of student number controls in England, add to the challenge for the Council to respond and influence quickly, while still seeking to work strategically and proactively to provide expert policy advice. As Chair I am indebted to the extraordinary level of support and high quality of work provided by our Director of Policy and our small but expert staff team and to the commitment of Executive Team members.

This annual report is intentionally succinct, providing a high level summary of just some of the many key achievements over the past year as well as pointing to some key challenges for 2014, including the development of our new Strategic Plan 2015-18. The engagement of members and other key stakeholders in shaping the development of our new strategic plan over the coming year will be crucial for ensuring our future positioning and success as a Council.

AS A COUNCIL WHICH STRADDLES THE INTERFACE OF CHANGING POLICY AND PRACTICE ACROSS HEALTH AND HIGHER EDUCATION SECTORS ACROSS THE FOUR UK HOME NATIONS, 2013 HAS BEEN ANYTHING BUT QUIET.

**Professor Ieuan Ellis**  
*Chair, Council of Deans of Health*



The final report of the second Francis Inquiry, the Cavendish Review, a new workforce planning process in England and the start of negotiations on the Benchmark Price and national standard contract are just some of the issues that have crossed our desk in 2013. There have been a number of areas in which we have seen progress. Towards the end of the year, David Willetts' affirmation of the importance of degree level nursing education for quality of care was particularly welcome; the Innovation: Teaching and Learning Project has illustrated something of the range of innovation in member institutions; and we have taken important steps to supporting members in Scotland more effectively. Setting up regular research seminars, welcoming new staff to the Council's team and continuing to build on closer ties with Universities UK have been other particular highlights

The breadth of work undertaken by the Council's members is striking. Education and training for the NHS workforce is only one part of an agenda that encompasses internationalisation, research, translation of innovation and integration of health and social care. In 2014 we will look to reflect these broader themes as we write our next strategic plan and to develop the strength of the Council's voice in advocating for the value of health higher education and research.

2013 HAS BEEN AN  
EXCEPTIONALLY BUSY  
YEAR.

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**Elisabeth Jelfs**

*Director of Policy, Council of Deans of Health*



The Council of Deans of Health is the representative voice of the 85 UK university health faculties providing education and research for nursing, midwifery and the allied health professions. Our members are experts in educating future and current health professionals, both in the UK and overseas. Members also carry out internationally-recognised research, developing new ideas that help solve some of health and social care's most pressing problems.

**We aim to:**

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**INFLUENCE HEALTH AND HIGHER EDUCATION POLICIES THAT IMPACT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EXPERT HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE ACROSS THE UK.**

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**BUILD PARTNERSHIPS THAT HELP DEMONSTRATE AND SUPPORT THE CONTRIBUTION OF OUR MEMBERS TO RESEARCH.**

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**SERVE OUR MEMBERSHIP EFFECTIVELY, RESPONDING TO CHANGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE HEALTH SECTOR.**

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### **Innovation in Teaching and Learning**

The Council's Innovation: Teaching and Learning Project, run in partnership with the Higher Education Academy, is now in its second year. Following publication of our first literature review on innovation in teaching and learning and our call for case studies in the summer, the project has focused on establishing a further literature review to examine cultures of innovation and on planning how to best share the learning from the case studies. Analysis of examples of innovation previously provided by members and subsequent dissemination, both through workshops and online, will contribute to raising the profile of healthcare education and encourage the adoption of new ideas.

### **Supporting Members in Scotland**

In April we welcomed Neil Freshwater as our new part-time Senior Policy Officer for Scotland and this has allowed us to focus our policy activity north of the Border. Neil is based at Universities Scotland's office in Edinburgh. As well as visiting members across Scotland, the main focus in 2013 has been on developing the Council's relationship with a number of organisations in Scotland, including NHS Education for Scotland (NES), the Chief Nurse's Office (CNO) for Scotland, the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and Universities Scotland.

Our two biggest policy issues in 2013 have been the introduction of the Public Services (Joint Working) (Scotland) Bill which seeks to pave the way for the social care and healthcare integration agenda in Scotland and the Vale of Leven Hospital Inquiry, the findings of which we expect to be published in early 2014. 2013 also saw the completion of the CNO for Scotland's Setting the Direction: Nursing & Midwifery Education in Scotland. Council members and the Scottish Heads of Academic Nursing and Allied Health Professions (SHANAHP) played a key role in working with the Scottish Government to develop this document. In 2014 we are particularly keen to increase our activity in the AHP sector. We welcome members' input as we continue to work to raise the profile of the Council and to address education and research issues, particularly at a time when the country will be focused on the independence referendum.

## **Responding to the Francis Inquiry**

The final report of the second public inquiry into Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust and a wave of other inquiries (Berwick, Keogh and Cavendish among them) dominated discussions on health in 2013. It was disappointing to see the focus of the Government's initial response to Francis on a proposal that aspiring student nurses should spend up to a year as an HCA before starting their degree. With no evidence linking

student nurses to failings in quality of care and previous experience of care already a prerequisite to join many courses, the Council's position was that this was the wrong answer to the wrong question. Alongside our formal response to the Francis Inquiry, we published a widely-discussed analysis of these proposals. In 2014 we will continue to work to influence the debate and to argue for policy focus on areas that will have a real impact on patients' experience of care.

### **Research Seminars**

At the request of members, we have set up a programme of seminars specifically for researchers, with the hope that these meetings will grow into an informal network and strengthen the Council's promotion of research. Our first seminar looked at submissions to REF 2014, with Hugh McKenna from the University of Ulster speaking. In our second seminar we looked at women in science, with a particular focus on the Athena SWAN programme. In 2014 our first two seminars will address EU funding (February 2014) and research impact (June 2014).

### **Sustainable Funding**

Following successful lobbying for the continued uplift to the benchmark price in England, negotiations on the review of the benchmark price and national standard contract for nursing, midwifery and AHP

education started in autumn 2013. The Council is working jointly with Universities UK to represent the higher education sector, negotiating with Health Education England (HEE). As negotiations continue in 2014, the review has highlighted the need to set out strategies for long-term, sustainable financing for health education across the UK, a theme that we will develop in 2014. With concerns about the security of workforce supply increasing, particularly in nursing, we have also continued to be active in arguing for a restoration in pre-registration nursing student numbers, welcoming the reversal of some of these cuts in HEE's workforce plan at the end of 2013.

## **Healthcare Support Workers**

Education for healthcare support workers has been under the policy spotlight this year, particularly in England. With very little available evidence on the higher education contribution to support worker education, the Council co-sponsored a project with Skills for Health to establish how and why universities engage in support worker education and to pinpoint the most important issues for higher education. The project's final report was published in July 2013. In 2014 we will continue to use the findings to shape our response to policy developments in education for support workers, including Health Education England's draft strategy and work on apprenticeships.

### **Alumni**

In 2012 the Executive agreed to develop a model for engaging with the 'alumni' of the Council, those who have moved on from membership of Council to take on other senior roles or to retire. The aim of the CoDH Alumni Association is to establish a network of former Deans and Heads of Schools who are interested in supporting the ongoing work of the Council. The Alumni was launched on 10 October 2013 with an inaugural reception at the Montague Hotel.

The Council of Deans of Health is funded by membership subscriptions and a small amount of project funding. This supports a staff team based in London, our membership events and other activities. The Council is governed through an elected Executive Committee made up of members and since 2012 has a formal link with Universities UK as one of its restricted funds.

Income and expenditure from 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013 are shown below. In 2012/13 CoDH delivered its budget with an underspend, reflecting savings made by aligning our governance to Universities UK. The Council has invested part of the surplus, in line with its reserves policy and further work will be carried out in 2013/14.

<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>31 JULY 2013</b>	<b>31 JULY 2012</b>
INCOME	404,111	349,907
EXPENDITURE	365,120	348,113
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	38,991	1,794
<b>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>		
FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	336,200	334,406
RETAINED INCOME FOR THE YEAR	38,991	1,794
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	375,191	336,200

### **Aspiring Deans: Leadership Programme Pilot**

At our 2013 AGM we agreed to look at the Council's role in supporting leadership capacity within our membership. Discussions with members pinpointed the transition into senior management and first dean posts as a particular area for support. In 2014, working with the Florence Nightingale Foundation, we will be piloting a number of leadership development scholarships for aspiring deans from any professional background within member faculties across the UK. The scholarships will have a joint health and higher education focus and will be co-funded by the Council, the Florence Nightingale Foundation and the applicants' universities.

### **2015-18 Strategic Plan**

2014 is an important year for the Council as we develop our future strategic plan, which we will launch at the end of the year. We will be seeking the views of members and our major stakeholders across the UK as we draw up the plan, with discussions at our full Council meetings in May and October.

## Shared Challenges: Social Work

There is an increasing focus on integration of health and social care across the UK home nations and many university faculties bring together health and social work education and research. The development of a new strategic plan therefore gives us a natural opportunity to explore shared problems and areas of common interest with bodies that represent social work education. We will be looking to see where alliances can be developed that will strengthen our voice, help us set out the evidence for the value of higher education and stimulate new ideas on addressing workforce issues.

## Meeting Dates 2014

**AGM:** Tuesday 28 January, *Radisson Blu, Glasgow*

**Summit:** Wednesday 21 - Thursday 22 May, *Hilton St. Georges Park*

**Full Council:** Thursday 16 October, *Radisson Blu Edwardian, Manchester*

**Alumni Reception:** Thursday 2 October, *London*

## Council of Deans of Health Executive

**Professor Ieuan Ellis** (Chair), Dean and Pro Vice Chancellor, Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, Leeds Metropolitan University

**Professor Jessica Corner** (Vice Chair), Dean of Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Southampton

**Professor Linda Johnston** (Executive Member - Northern Ireland) Head of School of Nursing & Midwifery, Queen's University Belfast

**Louise Jones** (Executive Member – England), Strategic Director for Health and Well Being, University of Worcester

**Professor Brian J. Webster** (Executive Member – Scotland), Assistant Dean, Faculty of Health, Life & Social Sciences, Edinburgh Napier University

**Professor Jan Draper** (Executive Member – Nursing and Midwifery), Head of Nursing, The Open University

**Professor Gail Thomas** (Executive Member – Nursing and Midwifery), Dean of Health and Social Care & Director of the Centre for Excellence in Learning, Bournemouth University

**Professor Tony Warne** (Executive Member – Nursing and Midwifery), Associate Dean Research and Head of School, University of Salford

**Iain Beith** (Executive Member – Allied Health Professions), Associate Dean for Practice Education / Head of School of Rehabilitation Sciences, Faculty of Health, Social Care & Education, St Georges University of London / Kingston University

**Dr Cath Bücher** (Executive Member – Allied Health Professions), Head of the School of Health & Rehabilitation, Keele University

**Professor Richard Stephenson** (Executive Member – Allied Health Professions), Pro Vice Chancellor (Student Experience), Plymouth University

**Professor Ian Blair** (Executive Member), Executive Dean of Faculty, Faculty of Health, Birmingham City University

**Dr Cath O'Halloran** (Executive Member), Head of Department of Health Sciences, University of Huddersfield

## Executive members finishing in 2013

**Professor Dawn Freshwater** (Executive Member – Nursing and Midwifery)

**Professor Melanie Jasper** (Executive Member – Wales)

**Professor Mary Lovegrove** (Executive Member – Allied Health Professions)

**Dr Linda Merriman** (Executive Member – Allied Health Professions)

# Staff Team

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## Council of Deans of Health

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The voice of the deans and the heads  
of the UK university faculties for nursing,  
midwifery and the health professions

**[www.councilofdeans.org.uk](http://www.councilofdeans.org.uk)**

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