

Date: 5 July 2000

Venue: Committee Room 2, National Assembly for Wales

Title: UPDATE ON DELIVERING MEDICAL UNDERGRADUATE EXPANSION

Purpose

1. To note the progress in order to expand medical undergraduate student numbers. This follows previous discussions by the full Assembly at the 7 December 1999 Plenary Debate.

Summary

2. This paper sets out:

- the background to delivering medical undergraduate expansion
- the action to date
- the next steps

Timing

3. As the Health and Social Services Committee you have identified that you wish to be updated on progress in this area. Although you wanted to debate the issue I believe this should be deferred until proposals are forthcoming from the subgroups described below, which we expect to be delivered in the early Autumn.

Background

4. In November 1997 the Medical Workforce Standing Advisory Committee (MWSAC) which advised on medical undergraduate numbers for the UK, issued its 3rd report identifying required expansion by an extra 1000 places.

5. At that time an advisory group was set up to examine the possibilities of expansion at the request of Win Griffiths and Peter Hain, the Parliamentary Under Secretaries of State. As a result, proposals were received to expand in two stages, with an additional 35 students per annum in 1999 and 65 in 2001. In April 1999, Alun Michael, then Secretary of State, gave approval for the 1999 proposed increase by 35 places but deferred further decisions to the National Assembly for Wales.

6. At the Plenary Debate on 7 December 1999 Assembly members agreed there should not be a second medical school at Swansea but adopted an amended motion put forward by Andrew Davies, Business Secretary.

7. One of the commitments arising from Andrew Davies' speech was that together with Tom Middlehurst, Education and Training Secretary, I would hold a round table discussion on how expansion could be taken forward with key stakeholders.

8. It was also agreed that greater collaboration between Swansea and Cardiff would be the initial focus for expansion, and specifically

- that any decisions would build on experience which had been developed at University of Wales Swansea (UWS) while working in collaboration with University of Wales College of Medicine (UWCM)
- this would result in students being taught on the UWS campus and they would therefore benefit from its research and teaching facilities
- this joint expansion would lead to a higher profile and increased resources at Swansea.

Progress to Date

9. After the Plenary Debate, Assembly Officials commenced discussions about the potential collaboration between Swansea and Cardiff with key individuals. The position of each of the 3 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) - University of Wales, Cardiff (UWC); UWS; and UWCM, were identified and the contributions they would each offer in order to deliver extra student numbers.

10. These were considered at a meeting on 12 April which I chaired with Tom Middlehurst. At the start of the meeting, I identified the commitment we were seeking which included:

- the expansion by the additional 65 places by 2001 with biomedical sciences continuing to be taught exclusively at UWC at that time;
- the development of a "Clinical School" at Swansea which in return for facilities offered by UWS, enables the University and NHS Trusts to have a realistic involvement in the clinical aspects of medical undergraduate expansion;
- consideration of the potential for a designated graduate entry course on the Swansea site but taught in collaboration with UWCM and UWC. This would include the formulation of a strategic business case that identifies a needs assessment; the quality of education to be provided to medical students; and value for money aspects

11. By the close of the meeting agreement was reached that these proposals should be progressed and that a project management group, chaired by Dr Ruth Hall, Chief Medical Officer should be set up. These outcomes were reflected in a Press Notice issued on the same day.

12. Since the meeting, a project management framework, reflecting the 3 commitments has been developed; considered by meeting attendees; and amended. A copy of the final version is attached at Annex A. You will note from the list of participants that the group membership has been expanded beyond the original group which met on 12 April, to ensure as much expertise as possible is called upon and the wider needs of West Wales reflected.

Next Steps

13. Meetings and work commenced in June. It is anticipated that the Clinical School proposals will be ready by September and informal discussions about what this might involve are already taking place between UWCM and UWS Officials. Agreement for this will enable the extra 65 students to be commissioned in 2001.

14. A Business Case for the Graduate entry should also be ready by the Autumn. This will be considered in light of the National Assembly for Wales' desires for further expansion beyond 2001.

15. The Financial Monitoring sub-group will need to consider in detail the effects of expansion to Service Increment For Teaching and Higher Education Funding Council for Wales funding. It is likely this group will have a longer life.

16. When, the specific commitments regarding the Swansea/Cardiff collaboration are delivered the groups will evolve to consider the contribution of wider Wales.

Compliance

17. The National Assembly for Wales has powers to fund medical education through functions under section 63 of the Health Service & Public Health Act 1968. These functions are devolved and process transferred under Article 2 of schedule 1 to the National Assembly for Wales (transfer of function) Order 1999. These powers have been delegated to the Health and Social Services Secretary. There are no issues of regularity or propriety.

Finance

18. The financial implications of these commitments should be dealt with within revenue provision made during the last Budget Planning Round. Members will also wish to note that a small amount, £267k, has been set aside within the new budget money for Health for capital expenditure to commence work in Swansea during the 2000-01 period.

Cross Cutting Themes

19. As Medical education is jointly funded through the Education and Health Votes; and undergraduate education is delivered in the Higher education sector, the Education and Training (Post 16) Committee would have an interest in the outcomes. The South West Wales Regional Committee also have an interest.

Action

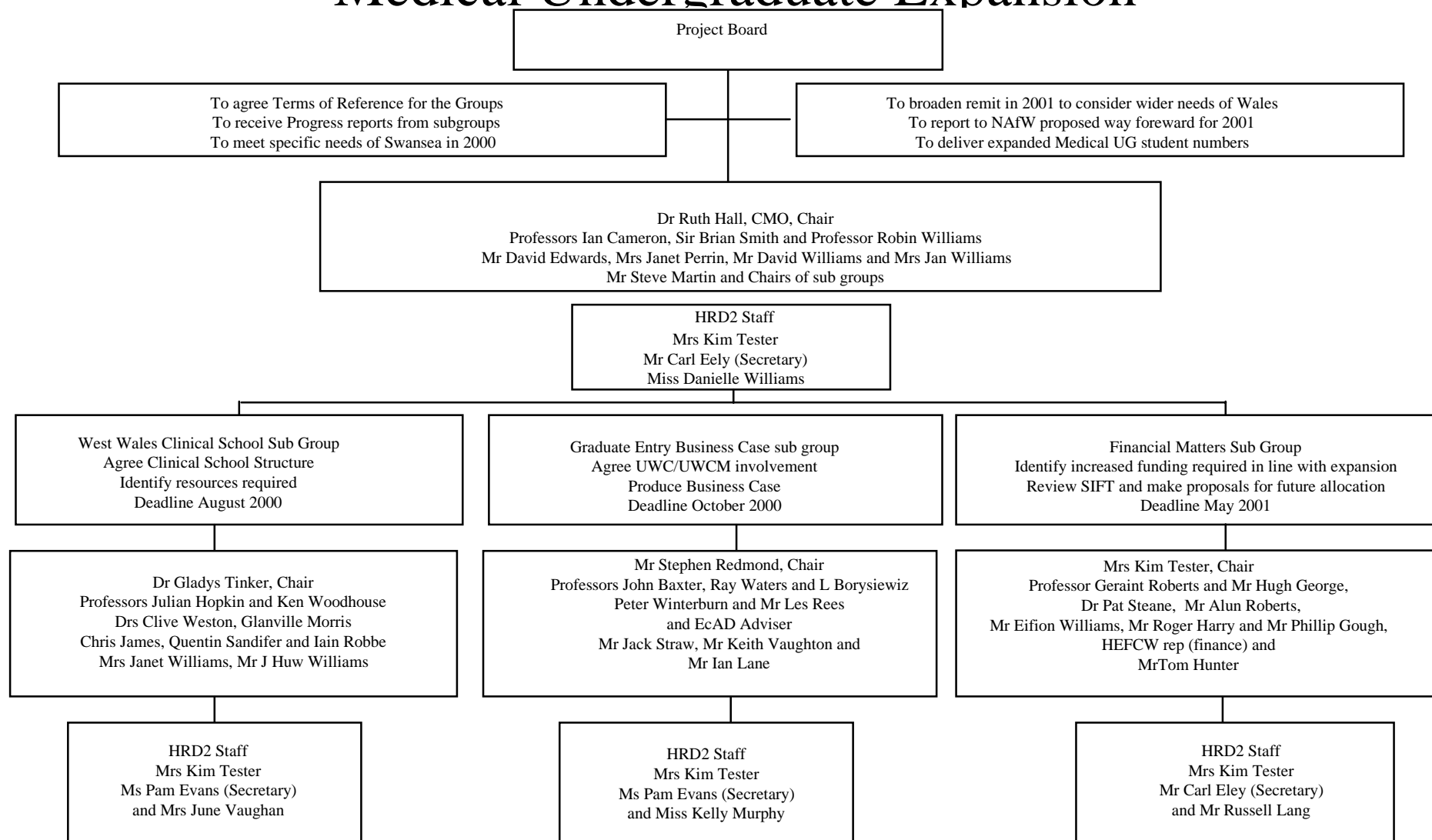
20. The Committee is asked to note the progress to date in relation to the future expansion of medical undergraduate numbers and defer debate on the issue until after initial proposals have been received in the Autumn.

Contact Point

21. The contact point for queries, is Kim Tester, Head of Medical and Dental Education, Human Resources Division.

Jane Hutt
Health and Social Services Secretary

Project Management Framework for Delivering Medical Undergraduate Expansion



ALPHABETICAL NAME LIST REFERENCE FOR ANNEX A

12 April Meeting Attendees included in framework

Professor John **Andrews**, Previous Chief Executive of HEFCW
Professor John **Baxter**, Postgraduate School of Medicine, UWS
Professor Ian R **Cameron** CBE, Vice Chancellor, UWCM
Mr David **Edwards**, Chief Executive, Cardiff & Vale NHS Trust
Dr Ruth **Hall**, Chief Medical Officer, National Assembly for Wales
Professor Julian **Hopkin**, School of Biological Sciences, UWS
Mr Tom **Hunter**, NATED, National Assembly for Wales
Mr Stephen **Redmond**, Human Resources Director, National Assembly For Wales
Mr Les **Rees**, Registrar, UWCM
Sir Brian **Smith**, Vice Chancellor, UWC
Dr Pat **Steane**, Medical Director, Swansea NHS Trust
Mrs Kim **Tester**, HRD2, National Assembly for Wales
Gladys **Tinker**, Health Professional Advisor, National Assembly for Wales
Professor Robin **Williams**, Vice Chancellor, UWS
Professor Ken **Woodhouse**, Vice Dean of Medicine, UWCM

Newly Nominated Members

Professor Les **Borysiewicz**, Professor of Medicine, UWCM
Mr Andrew **Clark**, Head of Finance, HEFCW
Mr Huw **George**, Deputy Director of Finance, Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust
Mr Phillip **Gough**, Director of Finance, UWS
Mr Roger **Harry**, Director of Finance, Swansea NHS Trust
Dr Chris **James**, Consultant Physician, Pembrokeshire & Derwen NHS Trust
Mr Ian **Lane**, Medical Director, Cardiff & Vale NHS Trust
Mr Steve **Martin**, Chief Executive, HEFCW
Dr Glanville **Morris**, Consultant Physician, Carmarthenshire NHS Trust
Mrs Jane **Perrin**, Chief Executive, Iechyd Morgannwg HA
Dr Iain **Robbe**, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Bro Taf HA
Mr Alun **Roberts**, Director of NHS and College Liaison Unit, UWCM
Professor Geraint **Roberts**, Dean of Medicine, UWCM
Dr Quentin **Sandifer**, Director of Public Health, Iechyd Morgannwg HA
Mr Jack **Straw**, Director of Resource Management, Bro Taf HA
Dr Keith **Vaughton**, Consultant Urologist, Swansea NHS Trust
Professor Raymond **Waters**, Head of School of Biological Sciences, UWS
Dr Clive **Weston**, Consultant Physician, Swansea NHS Trust
Mr David **Williams**, Chief Executive, Swansea NHS Trust
Mr Eifion **Williams**, Director of Finance, Iechyd Morgannwg HA
Mr J. Huw **Williams**, General Manager/Head of Service Planning, Swansea
Mrs Jan **Williams**, Chief Executive, Bro Taf HA
Mrs Janet **Williams**, Head of Operations, Swansea NHS Trust
Dr Peter **Winterburn**, Medical Sub-Dean, UWC