

Date: Wednesday 23 October 2002

Venue: Committee Rooms 3 & 4, National Assembly for Wales

Title: University of Wales College of Medicine, Compact Scheme

Purpose

1. To provide members with clarification of the Compact Scheme being run by University of Wales College of Medicine (UWCM) for pupils who have no family tradition of higher education.
2. Committee paper [HSS-10-02\(p.3\)](#) presented to the Health and Social Services Committee on 1 May 2002 set out various initiatives being undertaken to widen access to medical education in Wales. One of the schemes was the UWCM Compact Scheme. However, Members expressed concern that this scheme appeared to involve almost exclusively the Bro Taf area and asked what was being done to ensure that pupils from other parts of Wales also had the opportunity to access the scheme.

Recommendations

3. Members are asked to note that:
 - Student Mentors are the central focus of the Compact Scheme. They are used as role models to the pupils, as many of these pupils do not have a family tradition of Higher Education. One Student Mentor acts as a "buddy" to one Compact Pupil and they build up a relationship over the time they are part of the Compact Scheme. Therefore pupils are required to visit the UWCM site and UWCM students are required to undertake visits to the schools.
 - UWCM have advised that it would not be possible, at present, to sustain a high quality, labour-intensive programme across the whole of Wales.
 - The "taster courses" in Mid and North Wales - detailed in paragraph 14 of [HSS-10-02\(p.2\)](#) - were very well received and UWCM are continuing to work closely with Schools and NHS partners.
 - UWCM have advised that future development of local "Compact Schemes" in Mid and North

Wales will be possible, should the proposed Clinical School expansion programme be implemented and will use the experiences and best practice from the existing Compact Scheme.

Finance

4. The Welsh Assembly Government has contributed funding in 2002-03 towards the costs of the Compact Scheme. This contribution has been provided by NHS Wales Department and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW).

Action

5. Members are asked to note that the development of future UWCM "Compact Schemes" across Wales are being considered in alignment with the larger agenda of Clinical School Expansion and that a further paper will be presented to the Committee next Spring.

Jane Hutt
Minister for Health and Social Services

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