

SCOTTISH PHARMACY BOARD MEETING – Open Business

Minutes of the Open Business meeting held on Tuesday 18 June 2024 at Doubletree by Hilton Cadbury House, Frost Hill, Congresbury, Bristol, BS49 5AD.

Scottish Pharmacy Board: Jonathan Burton (JB) (SPB Chair), Lucy Dixon (LD), Laura Fulton (LF), Josh Miller (JM), Richard Shearer (RSh), Amina Slimani-Fersia (ASF), Richard Strang (RSt), Jill Swan (JS), Audrey Thompson (AT).

Apologies: Catriona Sinclair (CS) (SPB),

In attendance:

Ross Barrow (RB), Head of External Affairs – Scotland, Public Affairs Manager – England, Cara Mackenzie (CM), Scottish Clinical Leadership Fellow, Fiona McIntyre (FM), Scottish Practice & Policy Lead, Carolyn Rattray (CR), Business Manager – Scotland and Laura Wilson (LW), Director for Scotland.

24.06/SPB/07(a)	<p>Confirmation of Jonathan Burton as Chair of the Scottish Pharmacy Board <i>Led by: Laura Wilson, Director for Scotland and Secretary to the Scottish Pharmacy Board</i></p> <p>One nomination for Scottish Pharmacy Board Chair. Jonathan Burton was nominated by Catriona Sinclair and seconded by Laura Fulton.</p> <p>Jonathan's address to the Board:</p> <p><i>Thank you for taking the time to read over my address to the Board.</i></p>	
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	<p><i>Whilst I can't predict all the opportunities & challenges the SPB and wider RPS will face over the coming years, I can promise that I would work extremely hard as Board Chair to ensure the Society is as relevant and influential as it possibly can be, to pharmacists' everyday working lives.</i></p> <p><i>I do have previous experience as SPB Chair, from 2019 to 2021. I don't think this automatically qualifies me as a good leader, but I would hope to take some of things I did well, and reflect on the areas where I feel that I could have made improvements, and apply that to being as effective as possible this time around.</i></p> <p><i>My key guiding principles are as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Be authentic:</i> <i>I will always aim to be honest, open, hardworking and consistent in my role. I'm very proud to be a pharmacist and consider it a great privilege to be able to use my skills to look after patients and the public. I consider working with the RPS to be an extension of this privilege and take it extremely seriously.</i>• <i>Value those around you:</i> <i>I am hyper aware that when sat around the Board table with all of you that I'm surrounded by a great depth & variety of expertise, and skills that I may very well not possess or have fully mastered. I will always value that, try to listen well & guide discussions and decisions in a way that reflects our collective talent.</i>• <i>Support our members to support the public:</i> <i>To me, this is what the Society is all about- providing the right support, advocacy and resources for our members, so that they can look after patients and the public in the best way possible. I will always keep this in mind.</i>• <i>Value those who support you and RPS members:</i> <i>Whenever working with the RPS I have always placed great importance on good working relationships with the staff at all levels of the organisation. They offer us as Board members great support and insight and deserve to be treated with the upmost respect, even when we may need to challenge them from time to time.</i>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Be nice, even if you don't agree: I believe in diplomacy over confrontation, and whilst I have no issue with passionately putting across my own opinion, I will always work towards finding understanding & compromise where it is required.</i> <p><i>I believe that in recent years the RPS has always had both opportunity and threat in terms of its long-term future and sustainability. The opportunity to blossom into a more widely respected and recognised Royal College type body (leaving arguments about name aside), alongside the threat of declining membership numbers and a struggle to maintain relevance to a profession which has seen massive change over the past two decades. I feel that the RPS's work with Foundation, Advanced and Consultant level credentialling is a fundamental component of a healthy future for the profession and the organisation itself, and this process must continue to be supported and nurtured. Whatever the outcomes from the election process, I'm looking forward to working with all of you and wish you the very best for your time on the SPB.</i></p> <p>Affirmation proposed by Audrey Thompson and seconded by Lucy Dixon</p> <p>The Scottish Pharmacy Board</p> <p>Affirmed</p> <p>Jonathan Burton (JB) as Chair of the Scottish Pharmacy Board and SPB representative to the Assembly.</p> <p>JB was invited to speak:</p> <p>"I am delighted to be elected Chair of Scottish Pharmacy Board.</p> <p>Serving as Chair is a great privilege. I am hugely thankful to Members for supporting me to serve the pharmacy profession across Scotland in this important capacity.</p> <p>"During my time as Chair, I my guiding principles will be, to act with authenticity, to respect all Members' views and to be passionate, whilst treating everyone with respect."</p>	
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<p>24.06/SPB/07(b)</p>	<p>Affirmation of Audrey Thompson as Scottish Pharmacy Board representative to The RPS Assembly <i>Led by: Laura Wilson, Director for Scotland and Secretary to the Scottish Pharmacy Board</i></p> <p>One nomination for Scottish Pharmacy Board representative to the RPS Assembly. Audrey Thompson nominated herself and her nomination was seconded by Richard Shearer.</p> <p>Audrey's address to the Scottish Pharmacy Board:</p> <p><i>The constitution of RPS allows for two representatives of Scottish Pharmacy Board on the Assembly; the chair plus one other. I have been the second representative in the last two years and would like to put myself forward to serve a second term. Richard Shearer has agreed to second my nomination.</i></p> <p><i>The Assembly is the overarching governance body for RPS and my experience as a non-executive Board member of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde means I have a good understanding of corporate governance and the responsibilities. Roles of Assembly members include developing and prioritising strategy to ensure RPS fulfils its core roles. I believe that my record within SPB and Assembly shows I can contribute to discussions in a positive and collaborative manner. My experience in primary care and in a senior leadership position within the largest Health Board area has given me an understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced across sectors of practice and has provided me with examples of where collaborative working across sectors and across professions bring benefits to patients and to the professional development and satisfaction of pharmacists.</i></p> <p><i>This is a significant time of change for the RPS and for the wider profession. Changes to the professional leadership agenda are happening with the set up the UK Pharmacy Professional Leadership Advisory Board. RPS are represented by the President, and therefore it is vital that there is a strong Assembly voice with strong views from each of the nations to help develop a cohesive RPS view which can inform the President's input to this group.</i></p>	
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	<p><i>The devolved nature of healthcare provision set against the reserved legislation on medicines and professional registration can cause some confusion, so it is vital the devolved nations are able to provide input. I believe that in my first term I was able to provide a strong Scottish perspective while working collaboratively and recognising the many areas where a cohesive voice across GB issues is necessary.</i></p> <p><i>There are several changes in the legislative landscape which need clear professional leadership in providing the expectation and support for development of our profession and the wider pharmacy service. The change in prescribing rights for newly qualified pharmacists and the support required for this to become a safe and effective core role for pharmacists needs clear professional voice at national level ensuring employers have structures in place to facilitate this. The ongoing development of clear career pathways with credentialling as a cornerstone will be key over the next few years to have this embedded into service provision and generate clearer understanding within and out with the profession on the differences between levels of practice. Assembly needs to take the lead in ensuring that pharmacy leadership has the interests of the public at the centre, but also that there is a clear co-ordinated and respectful collaboration with pharmacy technician leadership. The recent change to Patient Group Direction legislation to incorporate permissions for pharmacy technicians is welcome, and there is a need for the two pharmacy professions and their leadership bodies to work together. RPS needs to listen to members and the wider pharmacy professions on what this means for professional leadership and a single public voice for pharmacy.</i></p> <p><i>The RPS has recognised that there is a need to evolve its structure and way of communicating with members and the wider profession to remain relevant and to increase recognition of the benefits of a professional leadership body. I have been contributing to the work underway in the constitution and governance review and with the change in SPB Board Chair, my continued presence on Assembly would provide continuity. Assembly is due to discuss the recommendations of the governance review in July before going out to the members for wider engagement.</i></p> <p><i>I have also been involved in Assembly discussions on the implementation of recommendations on the communications and engagement review undertaken by Luther Pendragon. This is an area where RPS has come in for some criticism and I strongly believe that there is a need to be more open and transparent and engage more proactively with members and with the wider profession. I know that there are positive ways of working within SPB that I can bring to Assembly.</i></p>	
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	<p><i>I strongly support the prioritisation of equality and diversity issues that RPS has championed along with workplace wellbeing. The current shortages in workforce, in availability of medicines and increasing expectation for clinical delivery are putting significant challenges on RPS members and others working within a pharmacy environment. The profession needs a strong cohesive voice to support the best use of pharmacy expertise within the multidisciplinary delivery of health and social care and set clear boundaries to protect pharmacists and their teams.</i></p> <p><i>In summary, I believe that my experience out with RPS as well as my experience of my first term as an SPB Member and my first term as SPB representative on Assembly mean that I have the skills and understanding necessary to make a positive contribution. I undertake to seek advice and guidance from other SPB members in advance of key Assembly decisions to ensure that I confidently and competently convey the Board's position and influence national policy and strategic objectives and support the SPB Chair. If unsuccessful, I will of course provide support to the new SPB representative to ensure that the organisational memory is not lost during the transition.</i></p> <p>Affirmation was proposed by Josh Miller and seconded by Jill Swan</p> <p>The Scottish Pharmacy Board</p> <p>affirmed</p> <p>Audrey Thompson as a Scottish Pharmacy Board representative to the RPS Assembly.</p>	
24.06/SPB/07(c)	<p>Discussion and vote for Casual Vacancy</p> <p><i>Led by: Led by: Laura Wilson, Director for Scotland and Secretary to the Scottish Pharmacy Board</i></p> <p>There were 4 nominations for the Casual Vacancy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omolola Dabiri – Nominated by Richard Shearer • Aileen Muir – Nominated by Audrey Thompson 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glenn Davie – Nominated by Catriona Sinclair • Nicola Middleton – Nominated by Josh Miller <p>There was a discussion about each of the candidates and what they would bring to the Scottish Pharmacy Board. There followed a vote whereby:</p> <p>The Scottish Pharmacy Board</p> <p>Supported</p> <p>Josh Miller's nomination for Nicola Middleton to be the Casual Vacancy.</p> <p>Action: JB/RB to write to Nicola Middleton to invite to be a casual vacancy on the Scottish Pharmacy Board.</p> <p>Action: JB/RB to write to the three unsuccessful candidates, inviting them to be involved in the work of the SPB.</p>	
	The meeting closed at 18:30.	

Action List

Item	Action	By Whom	Open/Closed/Comments
24.06/07C	• JB/RB to write to Nicola Middleton to invite to be a casual vacancy on the Scottish Pharmacy Board.	JB/RB	Open
	• JB/RB to write to the three unsuccessful candidates, inviting them to be involved in the work of the SPB.	JB/RB	Open