

## Evaluation of medical Foundation Programme underway

NHS Medical Education England (MEE) has started work on its evaluation of the two-year medical Foundation Programme.

The work is being led by Professor John Collins who is Visiting Professor, Nuffield Department of Surgery, University of Oxford, and Visiting Research Fellow at Green Templeton College, Oxford.

MEE was asked to commission a formal evaluation of the two-year programme, introduced in 2005, by former health minister Lord Darzi in his *NHS Next Stage Review: A High Quality Workforce*.

Professor Collins, supported by an expert advisory panel drawn from across academia and the NHS, will be collecting evidence from a wide range of individuals and organisations with an interest in the Foundation Programme including educators and trainers, regulators, Royal Colleges and Faculties, employers, trainees and medical students.

There will also be a review from the UK and internationally of academic evidence relating to medical education and training during the first two years after graduation from medical school.

Professor Collins will provide a report, including recommendations for the future, to the MEE Board, which in turn will consider advice for the Secretary of State for Health. The report is scheduled to be completed by the end of June.

Individuals and organisations are now being invited to give oral evidence to Professor Collins and his team. There is also the opportunity for anyone with an interest in the Foundation Programme to submit written evidence by 26 March.

The evaluation will examine:

- the original purpose of the Foundation Programme;
- whether it has met its original purpose and objectives;
- current priorities for the NHS from the early years of postgraduate medical education; and
- whether the Foundation Programme meets current NHS priorities.

m.f.

The needs of patients and medical graduates will be central to the evaluation. Recommendations may be made for improvements to the early years of postgraduate medical education and training.

While the evaluation has a specific focus on the Foundation Programme, it may also consider other recommendations in the context of MEE's responsibility to review the shape of the whole postgraduate training pathway.

Chris Outram, Managing Director of MEE, said: 'This is a very important area of work and we are fortunate that a medical educator of Professor Collins' stature has agreed to lead the evaluation. While this is an important project in its own right, there may well be useful lessons here for wider work about the shape of postgraduate training programmes.'

## **Ends**

**For further information** please contact Richard Green, MEE Head of Communications, 0207 972 5053/07799 895195.

**Notes for information:** the role of the expert advisory panel is to provide support for the independent Chair in conducting the evaluation and developing the final report and recommendations. The panel members are:

- Professor Stuart Macpherson, Chairman, Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board
- Professor Dinesh Bhugra, President, Royal College of Psychiatrists
- Mrs Sally Malin, lay representative, MEE Medical Programme Board
- Professor Tony Weetman, Chair, Medical Schools Council
- Professor Peter Kopelman, Principal of St. George's, University of London
- Professor Jacky Hayden, Chair, English Postgraduate Deans
- Dr Johann Malawana, Junior Doctors Committee, British Medical Association
- Dr Ollie White, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, trainee doctors group
- Mr Nicholas Deakin, Medical Students Committee, British Medical Association
- Dr Moira Livingston, Director of Workforce, North East Strategic Health Authority
- Professor Michael Goldacre, Professor of Healthcare Epidemiology, University of Oxford
- Professor Michael Watson, UK Chair, Conference of Postgraduate Medical Deans
- Mr David Grantham, Head of Programmes, NHS Employers

**February 2010**

**MEE/10/001**