

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY CHILD HEALTH

## CONSTITUTION

### 1. TITLE

The British Association for Community Child Health (BACCH)

### 2. AIMS

- i. To improve health services for children and families in their communities.
- ii. To enhance training and working practice of all those working with children and families in their communities.
- iii. To promote research related to the health of children and families in their communities.
- iv. To encourage greater collaboration with other disciplines, agencies and professional bodies concerned with the health of children and families in their communities.
- v. To serve as an advocate for the health of children and their families in their communities through professional, academic and political channels.

### 3. NATURE

The Association is an autonomous body closely associated with the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH).

### 4. MEMBERSHIP

- i. Membership shall be open to fellows, members and associate members of the RCPCH and to medical practitioners who work predominantly with children and their families in their communities.
- ii. Membership may be extended to non-medical graduates, commercial organisations, professional and voluntary bodies, and others on the advice of the Executive Committee.
- iii. Honorary membership may, exceptionally, be conferred on the advice of the Executive Committee.

### 5. OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- i. The Officers of the Association, elected from the membership of the Association, shall be a Chairperson, Convener, Assistant Convener and Treasurer. They with five other elected members and representatives of the Speciality Groups and CSAC (Community Child Health) shall form the Executive Committee of the Association.
- ii. The Chair, Officers and committee members shall be elected by postal ballot of all members, with the exception of the Trainees Representative, the Staff and Associate Specialists Representative and those representing Specialty Groups and the Chair of CSAC (Community Child Health).
- iii. The Chair and Assistant Convener shall take office at the AGM immediately following their election. The Convener and Treasurer will serve the first year after election as Officer-elect, to ensure a smooth handover. All Officers shall be elected for a four-year period after which they will be ineligible for election to that office for the next two years.
- iv. Other committee members will serve for a maximum period of four years after which they will be ineligible for re-election for the next two years unless elected to another portfolio or office.

- v. Committee members shall each hold a portfolio. These must include
- Editor (elected for four years, serving first year as Deputy)
  - Academic Convenor (elected for four years, serving first two years as Deputy)
  - Two Trainee Representatives (elected for two years by all trainees, must leave office no more than 6 months after gaining CCST or appointment as a Consultant, whichever occurs sooner)
  - Staff and Associate Specialists Representative (elected for four years by all non-consultant career grade members)

Each Specialty Group within BACCH shall nominate a member of their group to represent the Speciality Group on the Executive Committee.

The Chair of CSAC (Community Child Health) of the RCPCH shall also be a member of the Executive Committee during their tenure of that post.

- vi. Recruitment and election of new committee members is normally undertaken in the six months prior to the AGM, with elected posts starting and finishing at the AGM. In unusual circumstances the EC may vary from this timetable.
- vii. The Executive Committee has the power to co-opt members for specific purposes for specific periods.
- viii. The Executive Committee and any General Meetings shall be the decision-making bodies of the organisation.

## **6. THE COUNCIL**

- i. The Executive Committee, together with the Regional Coordinators, shall meet at least twice a year, as the Council of BACCH. The Council will be a forum for discussion and advice to the Executive Committee from elected Regional Coordinators and external representatives. Council will help shape policy, but decisions rest with the Executive, which shall take note of the views of Council in its decision-making.
- ii. Regional Coordinators (one per RCPCH Region in England, Northern Ireland and Wales) shall be elected for four years by postal ballot of all members in that Region. There shall be a representative for Scotland appointed by SACCH (Scottish Association for Community Child Health).
- iii. Representatives on Council will be invited from external organisations with an interest in child health matters. The Executive Committee will be responsible for invitations and organisations may apply to the Executive Committee for inclusion.
- iv. The Executive Committee may invite others to join Council if the Executive Committee considers their membership of Council would further the aims of the organisation.

## **7. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

- i. Each member of the Association shall pay an annual subscription, the amount of the subscription to be determined by the Executive Committee and notified to the membership before the first day of June each year.
- ii. Retired, unemployed, non-medical individual members, overseas members from less prosperous countries or Trainees (Specialist Registrars registered with RCPCH in any type of paediatrics) may pay fifty per cent of the subscription at the discretion of the Treasurer.
- iii. Subscriptions shall fall due on the first day of June each year. New members will pay a pro rata subscription in the first year when they join.

- iv. Honorary members shall be exempt from paying a subscription.
- v. Failure to pay the subscription may be held as a reason for termination of membership.

## **8. MEETINGS**

- i. The Executive Committee shall meet at least four times a year.
- ii. There shall be at least two scientific meetings each year, one of which will be held in association with the Annual General Meeting.
- iii. There will be an Annual General Meeting for which not less than 28 days' notice shall be given.
- iv. The quorum for decisions at general meetings shall be forty members of the Association. The quorum at Executive Committee meetings shall be 6 members, two of whom must be Officers.
- v. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be arranged if the Executive Committee decides or if twenty members apply in writing to the Convener. Not less than twenty-eight days' notice shall be given to all members of the meeting.
- vi. At all meetings of the Association, and of the committee, each member shall have one vote except for the Chair who will not normally vote. In the case of equality of votes the Chair shall have a casting vote. Honorary members shall not have a vote.

## **9. NEWSLETTER**

A newsletter will be issued to all members at least twice a year.

## **10. ACCOUNTS**

Accounts of the financial affairs of the Association shall be maintained by the Treasurer. The accounts shall be duly audited by auditors appointed by the Association and shall be presented at each Annual General Meeting.

## **11. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Amendment to the Constitution may be made only by postal ballot of all members or at a General Meeting provided that the proposed amendments have been circulated in writing to all members at least twenty-eight days before the meeting. Amendments shall take effect only on approval of at least two thirds of those present and eligible to vote, or of at least two thirds of replies received to a postal ballot.

## **12. WINDING UP OF THE ASSOCIATION**

In the event of the winding up of the Association, any outstanding funds shall be transferred to allied professional associations or charities at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Last amended 2007