

## **GDPG Report**

### **Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

#### **Inaugural Meeting of the GDPG Triennium 2012 – 2014**

The inaugural meeting was mainly taken up with elections of officials and members to committees and updating of work already carried out and work in the pipeline.

The election to the chair was interesting in that the chairman of the last three years, John Milne, was challenged by Eddie Crouch. Most people thought that the last three years had been a success under John's chairmanship and Eddie was a member of the GDPG Executive. John's case was based on his approach of never giving up on discussions and negotiations whilst Eddie felt that a more confrontational approach should be used from time to time. Their election addresses are reproduced here:

#### **Eddie Crouch**

*For the past three years GDPG has followed a policy of "Engagement with extreme vigilance" but I believe that our position is being taken for granted.*

*Too often we have been treated with discourtesy on major issues such as Seniority Pay, CQC, HTM 01-05 and efficiency savings. At the same time the Department of Health claim to be working collectively with GDPG to replace the 2006 contract but changes are needed now whilst we wait hoping for something better.*

*My vision is for us to work collectively with professional solidarity during these challenging times. I will keep colleagues fully informed and engaged in the process. Our strength of purpose will convince the profession we are fighting for them. We have to change the belief that we have no influence.*

*I will provide firm and effective leadership to challenge and stick to principles in an argument, when the profession is being unfairly treated. We should not accept no, if that answer is wrong for us and patients. I will not be complacent when negotiations are one-sided.*

*It is for these reasons and more that I ask you to support me for Chair and the change of direction that we now need.*

#### **John Milne**

*It has been a privilege and challenge to serve as your Chair during the last triennium, and all members of GDPG have worked tirelessly for the profession. Our policy of vigilant engagement, strong argument and persuasion has brought us to where contract pilots have begun.*

*My leadership has been grounded on a passion for our profession and a strong desire to improve our working lives.*

*That passion still burns strongly, and it is crucial that GDPG continues, with critical engagement to navigate the threats and opportunities of reform to achieve the best outcomes for those we represent.*

*Over the last three years I have, with your vital support, through level-headed, tenacious leadership, successfully lobbied ministers and influenced the discussions and negotiations with civil servants and key stakeholders which has resulted in the UDA contract heading for the scrapheap*

*But the big challenge of designing a workable contract remains, and I look forward with relish to leading us through this difficult task and utilising our collective wisdom.*

*We will need to continue fighting for funding in recession, for autonomy in the face of mounting regulation across all four countries and I would be honoured to serve again as your Chair.*

Many people were surprised that a challenge should be made to the chair at this point but Eddie polled over 30% of the vote – this moved the chair to comment that he would listen to the feeling exhibited by the vote and that perhaps he would be more confrontational when the case arose.

The vice-chairs Peter Hodgkinson and Henrik Overgaard Nielsen were returned unopposed.

I have appended the GDPG's Report on the last Triennium, the minutes of the last meeting and the report of Welsh GDPG to GDPG for your information at this stage.

Roger Pratley