

The Ideas and Advocacy panel: HLG's Policy group

The Health Libraries Group has taken the opportunity of the creation of the cilip Policy Forum in 2008 to review its own policy apparatus. Melanie Brocklehurst, Chair of HLG at the time, sought a volunteer to represent HLG on the new cilip Policy Forum. Maurice Wakeham rather rashly agreed to be the representative and, as such, became chair of the HLG's policy panel, which at that time existed in name only, and a member of HLG committee.

The first discussion centred around what the HLG's policy panel should call itself. There was also the small matter of membership. Some volunteers have come forward to enable a formal panel to get under way. The panel's concerns are with influencing opinion, reflecting and generating ideas and advocating the role of the health librarian. The expectation is that most of the Panel's deliberations will be digital but we decided to meet in person earlier this year.

The Panel met on 9th February 2009 at the King's College Guys Hospital site. Present were Gillian Foster, Vicky Sergeant, Sarah Lawson, who organised the venue and came bearing refreshments, Alan Fricker and Maurice Wakeham (Chair). Helen Buckley Woods is also a member but was unable to attend the meeting.

Work of the Group so far

Responses have been made to requests from cilip, in the form of Guy Daines, on

Informal Adult Learning

Delivering Digital Inclusion

A document has also been produced, based on information gathered from HLG members, about the National Service Framework.

Helene Goring attended the first cilip Policy Forum and Maurice Wakeham has attended two further meetings of the Forum on behalf of HLG and one meeting of the SCONUL/cilip Health Strategy Group. Notes have been circulated to the HLG Committee of these meetings.

Reviewing the Terms of Reference

The group looked at the *Terms of Reference* that had been presented to and accepted by the HLG Committee in September 2008. Essentially the *Terms* were seen as reflecting what we want to do. What we decided we would seek to do is:

- To assist and seek to influence corporate cilip in matters relating to health care policy through representation on the cilip Policy Forum.
- To identify the needs and the views of HLG members in relation to aspects of health care policies which may affect them and their services.

- To work within the Joint SCOUNL/CILIP Health Strategy Group to assist in mapping the role of library and information professionals within the framework of UK health care policy.

There was some discussion about the name of the group, with *Ideas and Advocacy Panel* seeming the most popular. Concepts of engagement and influence were also discussed, though it also seems very easy to refer to it as the Policy Panel.

The Role and Function of the Panel

Taking the lead from the *Terms of Reference* we decided that the panel would welcome contributions from the membership on professional topics relevant to them. To this end the HLG membership has been asked to comment on the NHS Evidence proposals on the accreditation of resource providers.

The panel will continue to respond to requests for input from cilip where the issues are deemed to be relevant. We will canvas the HLG membership for its views where appropriate, bearing in mind that members will not want to be inundated with such requests. We agreed that we would contact Julie Ryder regarding updating of the web pages (see <http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/health/policy>)

The panel will seek to promote its work through the HLG web pages and the *Newsletter*.

Relationship to the Public Health Online Reference Group

This group has been established by cilip to provide expert opinion to the Chief Executive in his role as a member of the *NHS Choices User Panel*, to progress the cilip *Libraries and Public Health* policy statement and to monitor developments in the Field. We decided that the Panel needs only to have an awareness of the activities of the PHORG.

There's more

Among other topics discussed, was the development of *NHS Evidence* and the role of Librarians within its work. There was also talk about what exists to explain Health Librarianship to new recruits to the profession.

As a primarily virtual group we did not think it necessary to make a date for another face to face meeting at this time but we thought we would almost certainly wish to meet again in the future.

Maurice Wakeham
Chair of HLG Ideas and Advocacy Panel.
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