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Achieving a Balance – Plan for Action

Rotational training schemes

The movement of registrars' contracts to regional health authorities, and the requirement that registrars are appointed by an appointments committee, the constitution of which is determined by the Department of Health, do not necessitate the dismantling of SHO-registrar rotational training schemes. However, in some regions dis-association of SHO and registrar training may be beneficial in relation to the quality of general professional training that can be provided to each group, also bearing in mind the requirements of vocational trainees for general practice.

Schemes' approval status with the College must not be jeopardised, which may occur if changes are made, or imposed, without appropriate consultation.

The Central Approval Panel has decided, with endorsement by the Court of Electors, that proposed administrative changes to schemes should be discussed with the Convener responsible for the Division of the College where the scheme is located, who may wish to make a short visit to gain understanding of the situation. Additionally, training schemes which are being amalgamated will still be visited on the due date, when again local developments can be monitored.

Names of Convenors and dates that visits to schemes are due can be obtained from Jane Hinton, Deputy Education Officer, at the College.

'The safety net'

This refers to intermediate cover, i.e. between first on-call and the responsible consultant. It is unlikely that this is relevant to many psychiatric services where normally a SHO or registrar is on-call, covered by a consultant. Senior registrars may act for a named consultant, as second on-call, as approved by the JCHPT.

The term 'safety net' applies, in psychiatry, when a SHO or registrar has a more experienced trainee (registrar or senior registrar) available on-call providing an intermediate tier between him or her and the responsible consultant.

I appreciate that Members and Fellows have many concerns about the implementation of *Achieving a Balance – Plan for Action* and hope that they will not hesitate to contact me at the College if the Education Department can be of assistance in this regard.

Dr FIONA CALDICOTT
Dean