

## Education sub-group meeting notes

19<sup>th</sup> March 2009, Dundee

### Attendance

Committee members:	Lorna Sibbett
Jack Jackson (Chair Education Sub-group)	Hilary Osborne (Network Officer and Secretariat)
Marit Boot	
Sheelagh Frame	Apologies:
Sharon Macnab	Marjorie Smith

### 1. Welcome and introductions

Jack Jackson (JJ) began by thanking those present for attending the meeting and agreeing to sit on the group. He then asked each of those present to give a brief overview of their career so that group members could get a sense of the wealth of experience on which it might draw.

### 2. Programme

The group then moved on to discuss the proposed programme for its activities in 2009. It was noted that this was only a proposal and that, as such, the sentence on the agenda should read “the following may take place” rather than “the following will take place.”

The first area which was discussed was around the work which Gengage might do with clinical genetic centres to develop their public involvement structures. Hilary Osborne (HCO) gave the group her understanding of clinical genetic centres and how they work in Scotland. It was agreed that Gengage would investigate further in partnership with the Genetic Interest Group what support would be helpful and the shape it might take. The group was keen to hear how this develops and to learn more about NHS clinical genetic services in general.

### **Action – Secretariat to try and arrange an opportunity for the sub-group to learn more about the work of clinical genetic services at its next meeting**

The group then moved on to discuss the suggestion that Gengage might provide training to increase the capacity and capability of people working to engage the public on issues to do with healthcare genetics. It was noted that quite a lot of organisations already offer training in this area and so it was important not to duplicate nor simply to badge existing events. It was also noted that while a lot of training was going on, the quality of that training was unknown. The group suggested that it would be helpful to have a list of groups

working in this area. HCO explained that Gengage was attempting to collate and promote this via its website.

**Action – Sub-group members to encourage any organisations they are aware of working on public engagement in healthcare genetics to submit information about their activities to Gengage for inclusion on the website**

The discussion then moved on to look at ways in which Gengage might stimulate and support engagement specifically around genetic issues. The group noted that it was often easier to work with existing groups such as Young Farmers, Women's Institute, community groups etc.

As a next step the group agreed to look at how it might build on the work already underway in science centres and also the Let's Talk tool with a view to creating new opportunities for public engagement.

### **3. Gengage conference**

The proposal for the Gengage conference which had been circulated prior to the meeting was then briefly discussed. In particular, the group looked at the need to create opportunities for networking and also perhaps to think about how this might be supported and encouraged. A number of options such as poster displays and speed dating were discussed as ways to get people networking over lunch.

**Action – Secretariat to discuss ways in which networking over lunch could be encouraged with others**

### **4. Any other business**

The group asked that contact details for all the members be circulated.

**Action – Secretariat to circulate contact details for committee members to the group**

### **5. Date of future meetings**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009 10am – 12.30pm, Edinburgh (This meeting is provisional)