



**TRUSTEES REPORT  
EXTRACTS – 30 SEPTEMBER 2008**

**Significant events**

**A national audit of the management of children with reduced consciousness**

In 2007 the proposal for a national audit of the management of children with reduced consciousness had been prepared by individual members of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH). These proposals had been commented upon by Dr Susan Hall and Dr John Glasgow, members of the Foundation's Medical and Scientific Advisory Board. Details of their concerns were set out in the report of the trustees for the year ended 30 September 2007. One major concern was that the time required for the two phases of the project seemed to be flexible. Dr John Glasgow, Chairman of the Board, in his letter to Professor Terence Stephenson dated 2 July 2007 suggested that "a more realistic initial approach might be to request funds for phase 1: i.e. restrict the application to the scoping/development phase". This suggestion was accepted by the College and a new proposal for phase 1 was submitted to the Foundation in April 2008 which was duly accepted.

The first phase 1 Scoping meeting was held on 24 July 2008 which considered inter-alia the content of a questionnaire to be sent to stakeholders, using as a basis a draft submitted to the meeting.

A second meeting of the group was held on 9 October at which a summary of the questionnaire responses was considered. Additionally a draft project plan was reviewed under a number of headings viz organisational data, audit criteria data collection, project duration etc. The meeting agreed that a pilot audit would be needed in a broad spectrum of departments, which included both children's A&E and general A&E.

A draft work in progress Scoping Report and Project Plan was prepared by the College in February 2009 but in March at an internal meeting at the RCPCH – attended by Dr. Sabine Maguire, Quality of Practice Committee chair, Dr Ian Maconochie, Officer of Clinical Standards and others – it was agreed, surprisingly, that a national audit would not be the best way to take the work forward. Instead the meeting decided that an alternative proposal should be submitted to the Foundation. At the time of preparation of this report the way forward is still under consideration. However in order to test the efficacy of the Guideline, it is understood to envisage a more limited (as opposed to national) project involving perhaps two English Regions, one of which has been re-circulated with Guideline material followed by a period of monitoring and comparison of management of those admitted to hospital in those regions with a reduced level of consciousness.