

Report of the Chairman of the Worcestershire Medico-Legal Society for 2014-5.

I think that I can report on a successful year in 2014-5. Our objective is to cover not just medicine as such, although this is obviously a main feature of our programme, but to look at health care in the light of social care and education too. This reflects the current emphasis on, so far as possible, looking at these three services as an integrated whole. The talks were generally well attended, the one on safeguarding drew the largest audience and the final one on education and care plans, which was in fact really excellent, the smallest. Perhaps everyone was ready for a break or perhaps the last talk did not arouse the same interest. It would be good to have feedback from members on which areas they find of the most interest and use. On each occasion the talk was followed by a vigorous discussion which is always a good sign.

We continued to put on five talks which were:

Diana Fulbrook, Chair of Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Board:
'Safeguarding Children Effectively'.

Dr. Richard Taylor former MP: 'An independent doctor in politics'.

Detective Inspector Stuart Murphy and Detective Constable Ian Wright of West Mercia Police on: 'Drug challenges in South Worcestershire'

Dr. Helen Taylor of Worcester University: 'The Mental Capacity Act 2005 and patient autonomy'.

Gurvinder Kaur of Shoosmiths Solicitors 'Education health and care plans: an overview'.

The other development was the continued progress with links between the Society and the University of Worcester with the eventual aim of establishing a Medico-Legal Centre at the University. The leading spirit here has been Dr. Helen Taylor, one of our members and a member of staff at the University of Worcester whose tremendous enthusiasm is behind this project. Prof. David Green, Vice Chancellor of the University and I signed a memorandum of co-operation in January which commits us to working together and this is being done in three ways:

- (a) Collaboration in the holding of what we hope will be an annual conference at the University. There was a very successful inaugural one on 2nd July 2015 entitled 'In Whose Best Interests' where a range of expert speakers considered decision making and mental capacity. Plans are now well advanced for a second conference on End of Life Care to be held on July 7th 2016. Do make a note of this date.
- (b) Collaboration in the development of an LLM/MSc Law and Ethics for Health and Social Care at the University. It is hoped, subject to validation, to offer these from September 2016. I am on the committee working on these under Helen Taylor's leadership and I hope that when these programmes are launched members of the society will contribute to them.

- (c) Holding some of our meetings at the University with others later in the year at our old venue of the Charles Hastings Centre at the Hospital. Which venue do you prefer? Do let us know.

May I thank all of our committee members for their constant support and for being such a fertile source of ideas for speakers. The committee members are: Dr. Tony Cole, Dr. Kelvin Laidlaw, Dr. Jonathan Leach, Dr. Helen Taylor, Susan Jarvis, Gill Porter, James Somerville and Erica Wassell.

The President of Yorkshire County Cricket Club used, by tradition, to go on for ever. Perhaps they still do now that they have started to win the County Championship again? I shall not do that but I would like to continue to see the project with the University of Worcester carried through to fruition. Lesley Smallman is happy too to stand again as your Secretary and Treasurer but we shall be looking at some date to hand over!

May I end by thanking you all for your support, our excellent speakers for without exception being so interesting and, on the personal level, so friendly and above all Lesley who is a real gem as a secretary/treasurer and does all the hard work!!

John Duddington

Chairman.