Health Sector Community Panel Notes

MEETING: Health Sector Community Panel Meeting

LOCATION: Microsoft Teams Meeting

DATE: Thursday 9 March 2023

TIME: 14:30 – 16:00

ATTENDEES: Sinéad McCormack; Natalie Bennets; Maddy Kennedy; Winifred Sarbah; Finbar Maxwell; Patrice Adams; Shekh Motin; Veer Parmar; Teresa Au; Joshua Ngeresa; Connie Atugonza (Chair); Saqib Raza; Itsham Khan

APOLOGIES: Sotiris Kyriacou; Tim Kelland; Catherine Phillips; Stephanie Moonan; Dawn Scrafield

Introductions, welcome to new panel members.

Panel members confirmed that they had read and understood the panel principles which govern the purpose of the group and the conduct of members.

Overview of the sector

A presentation outlining the numbers and make-up of the sector, and the key issues facing it, was shared with the panel.

- as of January 2023 there are 3,880 members and 109 affiliates in the health and pharmaceutical/private healthcare sectors
- 68% of members in the sector work for the NHS and 32% in pharmaceutical/private healthcare
- 77% of affiliates in the sector work for the NHS and 23% in the pharmaceuticals/private healthcare sectors

The most common issues were talent recruitment and retention and funding, these themes were common across all the sub-sectors within the health sector.

The group discussed how success of the panel's activities would be measured. A few suggestions were:

- growth in the number of members in the Health Sector LinkedIn group,
- contributions to ACCA research roundtables and other insights projects – suggest aim to have at least two panel members involved as a minimum
- raising profile in AB magazine "View from" section – suggest at least two non-NHS health sector profiles in AB magazine between now and the end of 2023
- supporting business development work with support at pitches – suggest having panel members present at at least two such pitches

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The issue of finding suitable Audit partners was raised as a concern and recognised as an issue for those in the NHS and in Life Sciences public interest entities, Itsham offered to share support from Audit Scotland if applicable.

The issue of the visibility of ACCA members in different NHS regions was raised and regional reps were encouraged to help promote ACCA within their areas. Jon shared some figures on ACCA's reach in the health sector and Astrid agreed to provide a regional breakdown of member numbers. Approved employer status helps a lot and should be encouraged.

It was agreed that the panel would be a place to share learning across the group and across the wider health sector

Guest presenter

Lloyd Powell, head of ACCA Wales, presented an overview of the work of the Strategic Engagement team and how panel members can get involved.

Discussion and insight from panel members

The panel discussed the following points:

- understanding the needs of members in the sector – what issues have you heard about "on the ground"?
- what does community look like to you?
- how can we strengthen our public sector community in the UK?
- working with relevant partners to promote the importance of the sector, build our brand and visibility of members

Agreed next steps

Activities the panel agreed to take part in:

- join the Member Insight Community at https://bit.ly/3TlXV1Q
- working on building stronger connections with HFMA Scotland and the NHS in Scotland via Itsham
- explore mentoring and early careers support options available to them via https://www.accaglobal.com/gb/en/member/advocacy-and-mentoring/mentoring.html and the email address for early careers ambassadors advocacy@accaglobal.com
- work on raising awareness and thought leadership on Life Sciences and biotech

- share opportunities to work with organisations in the health sector, to help spread the word about the qualification – e.g. meetings such as the Midlands ICB board meeting facilitated by Connie.
- provide suggestions for health sector awards and other partnerships to help promote ACCA members in the health sector

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 6 September 14:30 – 16:00 via Teams