

COLLEGE DIVISIONS: HOW IS THEIR WORK FINANCED AND SUPPORTED?

INTRODUCTION

The activities of the Divisions are funded primarily by College general funds. The largest single contributor to College general funds is membership fees (44% of the general fund and 28% of the total).

DIVISION FUNCTIONS AND HOW THEY ARE SUPPORTED

Direct support to Divisions, funded by general funds that have not been recharged to them to date, includes dedicated Divisional Managers and Divisional Administrators.

Divisional managers and administrators provide support in areas including academic meetings, production and circulation of newsletters, media liaison, response to consultations, engagement with service users and carers, careers information, promotional activities, essay competitions and prizes and work in support of regional advisers. Divisional managers provide a focal point for communications and support for quarterly Executive Committee meetings. They also support College processes for ACCEA and Fellowship nominations via local input.

The gross salary costs for Divisional Managers and Administrators amounted to approximately £438k in the year to 31st December 2009.

The figures above do not include overheads. The formula used by the College to attribute overheads depends upon the staff costs associated with any Department/activity. According to this formula, the attributable overheads in relation to the above staff support to Divisions amounted to approximately £234k. However, Divisions do not pay overheads – rather overheads are absorbed by general funds, which in turn are dependent upon membership fees and other income streams.

Although we do not attempt to quantify them here in financial terms, many other Departments of the College assist in the work of the Divisions – including staff in Communications and Policy, Membership Relations, Professional Standards and Publications and Website – not forgetting of course, the Chief Executive, governance functions and colleagues in the College Education & Training Centre who work with the Divisions on joint training activities.

COLLEGE SUPPORT FOR DIVISION OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

College support centrally includes also the rent and service charges, and other office costs, involved in maintaining Divisional Offices in the UK. These costs for the financial year 2009 were as follows:

DIVISION	Number of members	Office Cost at 31/12/2009 £
EASTERN	863	3,160
LONDON	2,857	3,530
NORTH WEST	1,201	16,870
NORTHERN & YORKSHIRE	1,186	16,870
NORTHERN IRELAND	340	43,540
SCOTTISH	1,194	39,460
SOUTH EAST	1,513	3,160
SOUTH WESTERN	880	28,870
TRENT	891	10,920
WELSH	504	23,980
WEST MIDLANDS	948	10,920
TOTAL	12,377	201,280

DIRECT FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION BY DIVISIONS TO CENTRAL COLLEGE FUNDS

Divisions are able to income generate. The main source of income generation is through educational events. Divisions are charged a 15% contribution to the College Development Fund for these activities. The 15% charge applies to total gross income and not surplus. It should be recalled that, although Divisions contribute to the Development Fund, they do not pay overheads.

The total turnover (not surplus) for the financial year 2009, for Divisions was approximately £296k. The amount levied for the central Development Fund was, therefore, approximately £38k. In the past the Development Fund income has been used to fund campaigns and plans for the new building.

The above turnover notwithstanding Divisions, as a group, made a deficit within 2009 amounting to £14k. Divisions have been allowed over the years to keep any surpluses and determine their use, subject to approval from the Finance Management Committee and the Central Executive Committee. The end of year balances of Divisions for 2009 were as follows:

DIVISION	NUMBER OF MEMBERS	BALANCE AT 31/12/2009
EASTERN	863	(8,366)
LONDON	2,857	15,503
NORTH WEST	1,201	24,027
NORTHERN & YORKSHIRE	1,186	4,684
NORTHERN IRELAND	340	5,758
SCOTTISH	1,194	6,387
SOUTH EAST	1,513	(11,176)
SOUTH WESTERN	880	73,999
TRENT	891	16,711
WELSH	504	(5,298)
WEST MIDLANDS	948	6,472
TOTAL	12,377	128,701

While there are some differences between the “Celtic” and English Divisions – the Celtic Divisions, because of their Assemblies or Parliaments with devolved responsibility for health services, focus to a greater extent upon political engagement – all Divisions carry out a broadly similar range of core activities. These link, in turn, to central College committees, staff and initiatives providing local input and expertise. Uniquely the South Western Division runs the local MRCPsych course.

ONE COLLEGE

The work of the Divisions is integral to the mission of the College as a whole, and it wouldn't be possible without the individual time and dedication of College members who work, often at unsocial hours and in their personal time, to make these activities successful.

A special thank you goes to Division Finance Officers who do much to ensure the smooth running and integrity of the finances of the College.

The current Finance Officers are:

Dr Sanjana Nyatsanza (Eastern Division)
Dr Andy Holwell (London Division)
Dr Sukhjinderpal Mann (North West Division)
Dr Gerard Garry (Northern & Yorkshire Division)
Dr Damien Hughes (Northern Ireland Division)
Dr Neill Simpson (Scottish Division)
Dr Catherine Kinane (South East Division)
Dr Peter Carpenter (South West Division)
Dr Paul Boston (Trent Division)
Dr Alka Ahuja (Welsh Division)
Dr Gabrielle Milner (West Midlands Division)

Financial arrangements can seem complex, but I hope that this short article is helpful in explaining levels of support in this key area of College work. Further details may be found in the Annual Accounts and Returns available on www.charity-commission.gov.uk

You should also feel free to ask for further information from your Divisional Finance Officer or from the Honorary Treasurer.

Professor George Ikkos
Honorary Treasurer

01.10.10