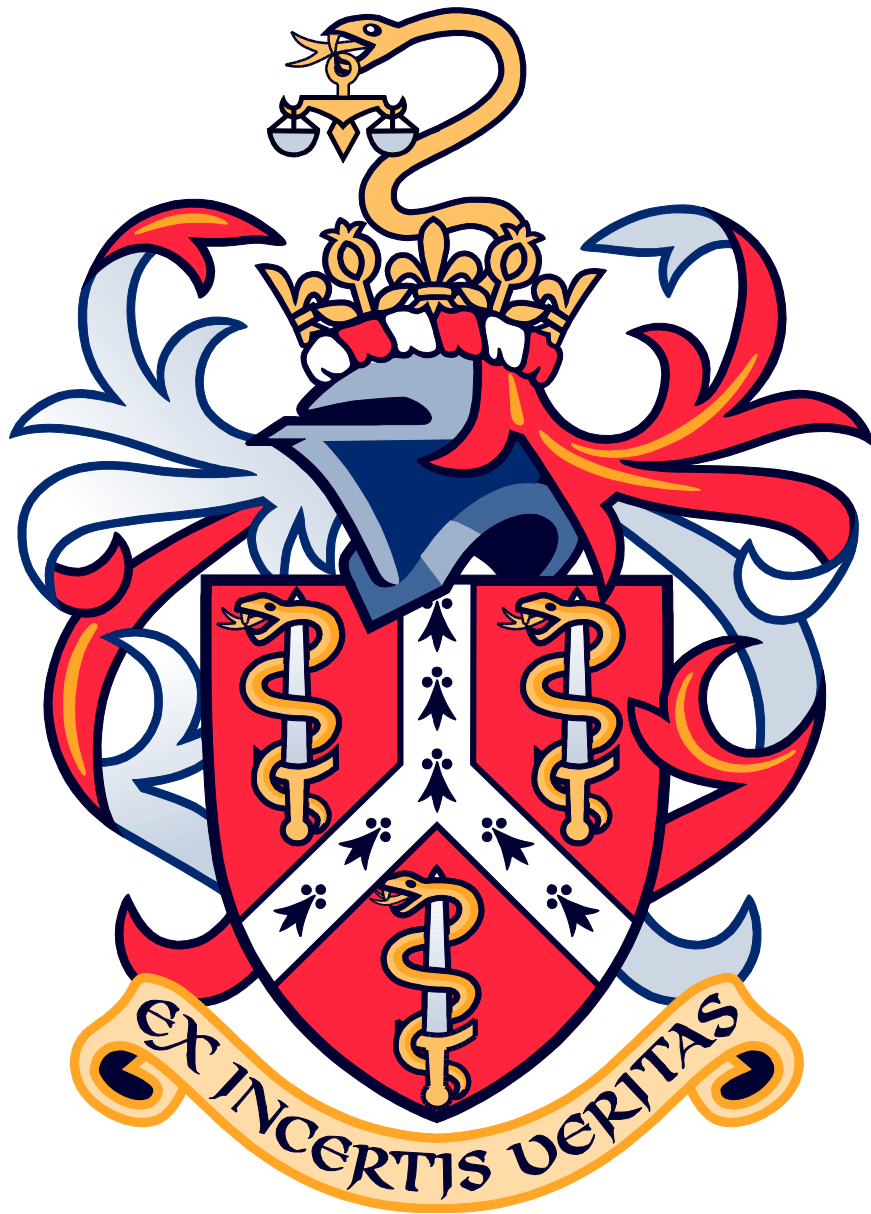


# FFLM Strategy for 2020/21



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## FFLM Strategy for 2020/21

The FFLM has the following charitable objectives:

- To promote for the public benefit the advancement of education and knowledge in the field of forensic and legal medicine in all its classes;
- To develop and maintain for the public benefit the good practice of forensic and legal medicine by ensuring the highest professional standards of competence and ethical integrity.

The strategy for 2020/21 will ensure that:

- 1. We will support our members recognising that they are our most important asset.**
- 2. We will maintain and further develop our quality standards along with our library of educational resources.**
- 3. We will continue to develop partnerships with other agencies and work with them to promote high quality care.**
- 4. We will continue to act as the leading resource in the field of Forensic & Legal Medicine.**



## 1. We will support our members recognising that they are our most important asset

### Membership engagement

- Maintenance of weekly Bulletin
- Maintenance of monthly Presidential message
- Survey of members completed in January 2020 with results provided to members
- Virtual Annual General Meeting held in May 2020
- Efficient monitoring of the generic email with rapid responses to members' queries and those from external agencies
- Continuation of Member rates for webinars, courses, and the annual conference

### Increase membership through diversification (from the core groups of dentists, doctors, nurses, and paramedics)

- Students as associates – working with Universities on this
- Prison multidisciplinary teams – discussions ongoing
- [Expert witnesses proposal reviewed and discussed at Faculty Board level and with Royal College of Physicians (RCP) – decision not to progress]
- Paediatricians through prescribed/equivalent experience via LFFLM – proposal approved by the Faculty Board in July 2020
- Psychiatrists – promotion of Diploma of Legal Medicine (DLM) examination / eligibility for Membership and Fellowship to be discussed with the new President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych)
- Forensic Pathologists – article submitted for the Royal College of Pathologists Bulletin May 2020
- Fellowship by merit – investigated and discussed at the Membership and Fellowship Committee (MFC) – decision not to progress

### Journal of Forensic & Legal Medicine (JFLM)

- Positive progress with regard to the Journal with an increase in article submission and increase in rejection rate (improved quality); increase in Impact Factor
- Consideration of selling JFLM – Faculty Board decided against this

### Website

- Development of new website with enhanced user functionality (easier for members to book for events/exams etc.)
- Review of materials on the website
- Introduction of IT efficiencies on the website to reduce repetitive tasks so allowing staff to work proactively and pursue new opportunities
- Improve access to publications and indexing via search engines to allow wider reach for our guidance

### Suitable Person & Appraisers

- Access to connect to the GMC appointed Suitable Person
- Anonymised yearly report provided by Suitable Person to Faculty Board
- Access to list of Appraisers



## 2. We will maintain and further develop our quality standards along with our library of educational resources

### Quality standards and educational resources

- Educational documents - Most important resource for members and the FFLM (Nationally and Internationally) as confirmed in the membership survey completed in January 2020 and feedback received (see page 6)
- Appointment of Assistant Academic Dean to assist the Academic Dean with regard to the educational resources and the rolling programme of review
- All educational documents now copyrighted
- Distribution list for educational documents checked and amended, regularly updated and added to, with a programme of circulation of the new educational documents after each Academic Committee
- Free webinar on updated educational documents by the authors scheduled for July 2020
- E-learning course (FFLM/Ulster University) reviewed and updated annually with work beginning on expansion to include General Forensic Medicine (GFM)
- Consideration of alternate ways to deliver training (rather than face-to-face) using different IT resources
- Rapid reaction to the challenges faced by our members following the COVID-19 pandemic with the development of a wide range of documents for GFM and Sexual Offence Medicine (SOM), regularly reviewed and updated
- Programme of webinars developed for the summer/autumn 2020
- Increase training initiatives outside of FFLM e.g. for HCPs involved in adult safeguarding in relation to documentation of injuries, statement writing, court room skills – ongoing
- Consolidation of relationship with Teesside University regarding the Course in GFM leading to the University Certificate in Postgraduate Professional Development (UCPPD) in General Forensic Medicine
- Assisted Teesside University with the application for Course Approval of the Post Graduate Certificate Advanced Forensic Practitioner (Custody or Sexual Offence) Higher Apprenticeship
- Development of a course for the assessment of individuals exposed to conducted energy devices (CED). Following requests from numerous providers to amend the FFLM standards we have liaised with the Home Office, Scientific Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less-Lethal Weapons (SACMILL), National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), NHS England (NHSE) and other interested parties to develop a competency based approach for the required assessment protecting detainees, officers, and clinicians
- Detainees with substance use disorders in police custody: Guidelines for clinical management (aka the Blue Guidelines) has been published; this fifth edition was published in collaboration with RCPsych
- The development of the document 'Safe and Secure Handling and Supply of Medicines in Sexual Assault Services for Adults and Children' – produced in partnership with the NHS E&I SARC Medicines Management Task and Finish Group
- Continued access to the RCP Library and Information Centre

### Promotion of examinations

- Review of Regulations and Syllabus with an updated reading list so more user friendly - completed May 2020
- Resources for Educational Supervisors and Clinical Validators – completed May 2020



- Free webinar by the Chief Examiner on the updated examinations regulations and syllabus completed June 2020.
- Frequently asked Questions document for the FFLM Examination session 2020/21 – completed June 2020
- Offer the Part 1 MFFLM and LFFLM and DLM examination overseas - completed April 2020
- Offer DLM exam outside of core groups (legal advisors, paralegals, etc.) – ongoing
- Membership examination for DLAs - in progress

### **Specialty status application**

- Progress continues on the application for specialist status



### 3. We will continue to develop partnerships with other agencies and work with them to promote high quality care

### 4. We will act as the leading resource in the field of Forensic & Legal Medicine

- Social media/Public Relations – ongoing
- Lobbying and engagement with external agencies - ongoing
- Working with Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) develop a competencies framework for the examination of children in relation to child sexual abuse
- Formation of a working group to develop Quality Standards on Mental Healthcare in SARCs with representation from RCPCH, UKAFN and the RCPsych
- Virtual meetings with the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (Faculty of Clinical Forensic Medicine)
- FFLM Representatives on external committees:
  - BMA Forensic and Secure Environments Committee
  - Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) Secure Environments Group Committee
  - NPCC Working Group on Rape & Adult Sexual Offences
  - National SARC Advisory Board
  - FSR Medical Forensics Specialist Group
  - Contamination Elimination Database Project (SARCs)
  - NHSE SARC Strategic Clinical Forum
  - Intercollegiate and Agency National Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum
  - NHS E&I SARC Medicines Management Task and Finish Group
  - NSPCC Health Liaison Committee
  - NHSE Health and Justice CRG
  - GMC Intercollegiate Ethics Forum
  - NPCC Clinical Governance Panel
- Liaison with RCP (President & Registrar) fully appraised of current financial status of FFLM
- Liaison with the President of the Faculty of Public Health (in relation to COVID-19)
- Liaison with the President of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine (provision of premises at charitable rates)
- Liaison with UKAFN and College of Paramedics – representatives sit on the Academic Committee
- Correspondence with other agencies including:
  - Letter to Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) re. closer working relationship (Jan 2020)
  - Letters to NPCC (Dec 2019/Jan 2020)
  - Response to RCP Prisoner Health Briefing (Jan 2020)
  - Statement to Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (March 2020)
- Letters to Chief Constable Hewitt, NPCC re. COVID (April 2020)
- Responses to GMC Remote consultations and prescribing and BASHH Guideline on the Management of Sexually Transmitted Infections and Related Conditions in Children and Young People consultations
- Listed as cosignatory on letter to Prime Minister regarding HCPs having access to PPE in dealing with the COVID.
- Listed as cosignatory on the following items relating to Domestic Violence:



- Letter to Prime Minister regarding the Domestic Abuse Bill (late December 2019)
- Guidance on asking about domestic abuse in virtual settings (telephone and online) for NHSE to share with NHS staff
- Letter to the Housing Minister, asking his department to support and promote work to enable the removal of perpetrators from the family home into alternative accommodation
- Letter to Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, regarding the Domestic Abuse Bill

Examples of positive feedback received in 2020:

From Australia:

*'I just wanted to say a huge thank you to all of you for sharing the COVID-19 policies and information, we have been so much better prepared that we would have been without them. In my service we have adapted them for use.'*

From Public Health England:

*'I just wanted to update you that I have shared the excellent materials from your website with colleagues not only in the UK and Ireland but also with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) in the US and also with colleagues that I am currently working with on international prisons and custody projects, speaking to colleagues today from overseas, I want to feedback that they have been very grateful to have a trusted and professional source of information and guidance to support the development of their own work.'*

*'Thank you the Faculty guidance you forwarded is an excellent example of how to take the generic clinical guidance and adapt it to a specific setting based on domain expertise. It is really first class.'*

From the Forensic Science Regulator (FSR):

*'..the links to the 'specific' web-pages on the FFLM website for its document, was really useful, as it allowed for changes in that (FFLM) document, without then needing a revision of the FSR's document too; the particular example was the sampling recommendations.'*

Our overwhelming objective in 2019/2020 was to reduce expenditure and we will continue to carefully monitor the FFLM finances:

- FFLM finances are under constant review following the fundamental changes required to reduce costs authorised by the Faculty Board in July 2019
- Freezing of staff pay and staff training budget
- Further reductions in costs will be made where possible, e.g. storage facilities
- Applications for charitable funding are being investigated by the Treasurer