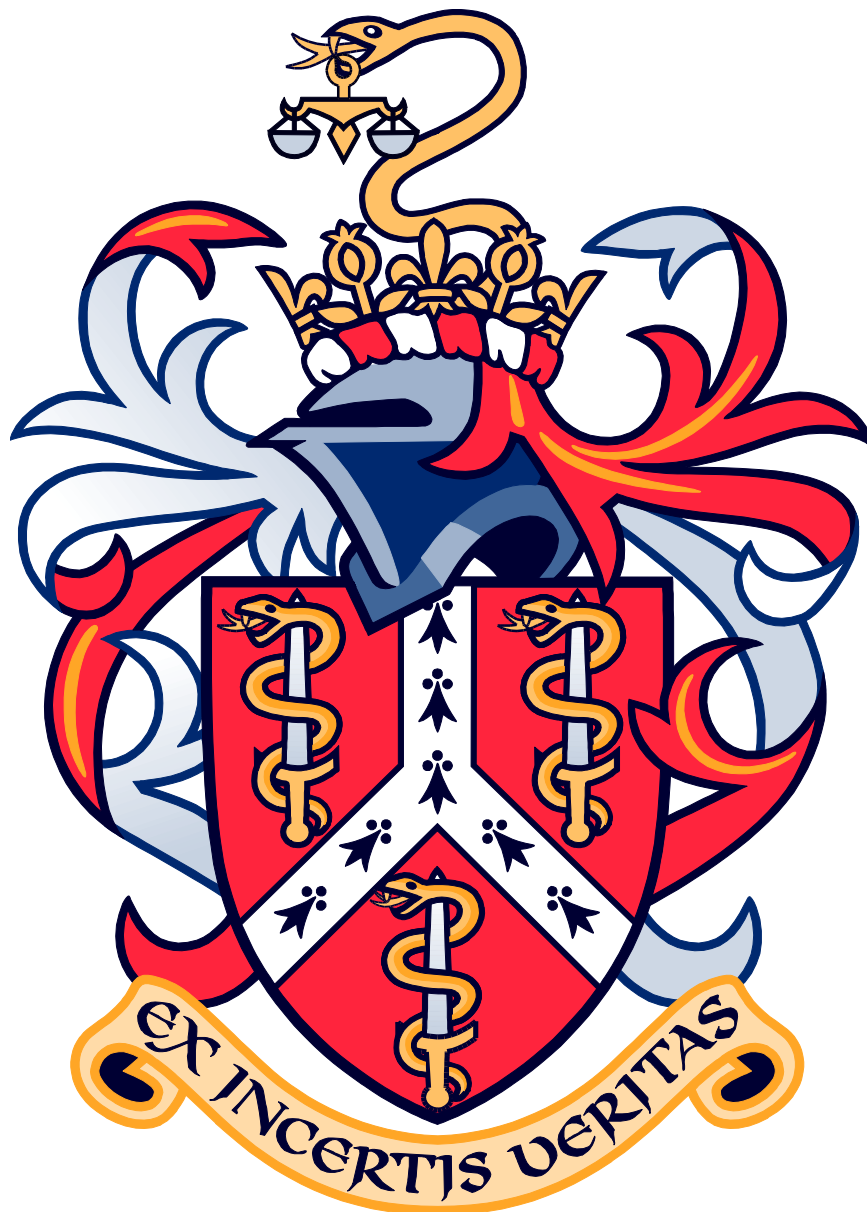


FFLM Strategy for 2022/23



Reviewed July 2022

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FFLM Strategy for 2022/23

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 2022/23 will continue to ensure that:

- 1. We will support our members recognising that they are our most important asset. We are continuing in our campaign for specialty status, recognising that this is important to all our members. We will encourage the involvement of international members and we will encourage the involvement of Allied Health Professionals.**
- 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
- Annual survey of members with results shared with members (available online [here](#))
- Option to attend the Annual General Meeting either in person or virtually
- Efficient monitoring of the generic email with timely responses to members' queries and those from external agencies
- Continuation of Member rates for webinars, development training courses (DTCs), and the annual conference. 10% discount applied to the rate for DTCs for both members and non-members
- Encouragement of international members to become more widely involved with the Faculty
- Introduction of an Appraiser Forum to support appraisers who often work outside of organisations with clinical governance processes
- Introduction of an Adult Safeguarding Forum to share professional experience and provide time for discussion of cases in a relaxed environment
- Option to join the Medical Expert Witness mailing list (electronic newsletter circulated by the FFLM's Medical Expert Witness Lead)

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

- Clinicians working in secure and detained settings – membership route opened on 01 August 2021
- DVLA clinicians permitted to join as Affiliates from July 2022 onwards
- Investigating Membership by Equivalent Qualification for Radiologists involved in post-mortem imaging
- 16 applications received for the route to LFFLM (SOM) [c] via prescribed/equivalent experience (three of whom are now FFLM Licentiates)
- Introduction of post nominal AFFLM (DLM) or Assoc (DLM) for successful DLM (and Part 1 MFFLM) candidates who obtain a Distinction in their examination

Journal of Forensic & Legal Medicine (JFLM)

- Journal is flourishing. Article submission and rejection rate remain steady. Journal CiteScore is on track to increase
- Student Affiliates granted online access to the JFLM

Website

- New website runs well and has increased functionality e.g. attendees are automatically emailed their reflections after completing educational activities

Suitable Person & Appraisers

- FFLM Members can connect to a 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 surveys
- 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
- Publication of guidelines and supporting documents for those who involved in the assessment of individuals exposed to a Controlled Energy Device (CED). Developed with the College of Paramedics, National Police Chiefs' Council, Royal College of Emergency Medicine, Royal College of Nursing and United Kingdom Association of Nurses & Paramedics
- Hybrid proposal developed to produce General Forensic Medicine (GFM) content for the FFLM/Ulster University e-learning course. Recorded sessions with summary tables/mind maps to be created
- Continuation of webinar programme with the aim of one free webinar a month for FFLM members. 12 free webinars have been held since July 2021
- DTCs adapted and moved online due to COVID pandemic. Adult Safeguarding DTC was free for FFLM Members to attend due to sponsorship by NHSE&I
- Development and facilitation of the Forensic Aspects of Adult Safeguarding workshops for level 4 Clinicians (sponsored by NHSE&I)
- Funding from NHSE&I secured to develop and deliver train the trainer and general forensic awareness sessions, along with the development of the FFLM Adult Safeguarding forum and FFLM website resources
- Continuation of the FFLM/Teesside University (TU) Course in GFM (leading to the University Certificate in Postgraduate Professional Development (UCPPD))
- Appointment of a Lead Facilitator for Sexual Offence Medicine (SOM) – Dr Leanne Tee
- Liaison with TU regarding the development of apprenticeship programmes for GFM and SOM
- National roll out of CED Clinician Assessment Training Course. Over 40 courses delivered and over 300 clinicians trained
- FFLM members involved in the revision of the *Physical signs of child sexual abuse - evidence-based review* i.e. the 'Purple Book'
- Continued access to the Royal College of Physicians Library and Information Centre
- Establishment of Assisted Dying Working Group (issue to be revisited in 2024)
- Re-established the FFLM Research Subcommittee
- Introduction of SR Johnson prize for medical undergraduate students

Promotion of examinations

- The DLM and Part 1 MFFLM/LFFLM examinations are now held online
- Scenesafe provide a prize of £250 to the candidate with the top mark for the Part 1 MFFLM/DLM exam in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024
- Hybrid model for the Part 2 MFFLM/LFFLM GFM and SOM (developed in response to the COVID pandemic) to continue. This allows candidates to complete the written portion of the examination and some of the OSCEs online in March. Remaining OSCEs completed face to face in June in London
- Promotion of the DLM examination outside of core groups (legal advisors, paralegals, etc.)
- New format of the Part 2 Membership examination for DLAs and MLAs agreed and to be developed

Specialty status application

- Progress continues on the application for specialist status. A Freedom of Information Act request has been submitted to ascertain why the application has not been supported by UKMERG/COPMeD. (Timeline of the application can be viewed [here](#))

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) to develop:
 - A “model” SARC for new units and a comparator for existing builds
 - A competencies framework for the examination of children in relation to child sexual abuse
- FFLM Representatives on external committees:
 - Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) (Wales)
 - 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)
 - Intercollegiate and Agency National Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum
 - NSPCC Healthcare Liaison Committee
 - NHSE Health and Justice CRG
 - GMC Intercollegiate Ethics Forum
 - NPCC Clinical Governance Panel
 - Royal College of Pathologists (RCPath) Medical Examiner Committee
 - RCPCH Standing Committee on Child Protection
 - Drink and Drug Driving (D3) Practitioners Group update (Department for Transport)
 - Medical Education and Training Forum
 - Review committee for National Guidance on the Retention, Storage and Destruction of Materials and Records relating to Forensic Examinations
 - Forensic Examiner Capabilities Framework - Steering Group
- Liaison with UKAFN, College of Paramedics, Royal College of Nursing and RCPCH – representatives sit on the Academic Committee
- Liaison with the College of General Dentistry regarding hosting joint training days
- Correspondence with other agencies including:
 - The Domestic Abuse Commissioner’s Office
 - Independent Office for Police Conduct
 - Metropolitan Police Service
- Responses to the following consultations:
 - Regulating Healthcare Professionals, Protecting the Public
 - Home Affairs Committee Inquiry into Spiking
 - Repeat Drug-Driving Offenders
- Listed as cosignatory on the following items:
 - Letter to NHSE regarding the disbanding of the SAAS Strategic Clinical Forum
 - INCADVA Health and Care Bill Briefing
 - AoMRC (Wales) joint statement *Winter Preparations - Snowed Under* calling for national action on workforce shortages, health inequalities and the NHS backlog
 - Letter to the Home Secretary regarding the New Plan for Immigration proposals to reform the provision of expert evidence to the appeal courts

Examples of positive feedback received in 2022:

From FFLM Members:

The most important thing the FFLM does is to guide my practice, keep me up to date. Without the FFLM I would struggle. Education through webinars and conferences is really helpful. Continually updating guidelines and standards is also vital. Communicating through weekly bulletins is incredibly useful.

Being a Member of the Faculty means that I have an organisation that I know represents me and understands my professional needs. I have an organisation that sets standards related to my role. I have an organisation that responds to queries I have re. anything related to my role - strategic or operational - I find of all the professional organisations I have belonged to, apart from the BMA and MDU/MPS, the FFLM has been the most responsive.

Excellent resources, the go-to for the most updated and current views and opinions on practical issues in forensic medicine.

FFLM Finances

We continue to carefully monitor the FFLM finances - they are under constant review following the fundamental changes required to reduce costs authorised by the Faculty Board in July 2019. We:

- Continue to make reductions in costs wherever possible e.g. editing FFLM guidance documents internally, virtual meetings for FFLM committees, virtual office for FFLM office staff, electronic storage of documents etc.
- Look to increase income through alternate routes e.g. fees for including job adverts in the FFLM Bulletin.