

## FFLM Strategy Day | 19 January 2022

### Key findings/outputs

#### Session 1/overarching themes

A stronger **overarching narrative** is needed that tells the FFLM story more powerfully to various groups, not only making the case for specialty but to strengthen FFLM overall and make the case for you as a **credible specialty**.

#### Need to work out your key strengths/USPs

- Subject matter experts underpinned by science
- Healthcare professionals making a difference at some of the most vulnerable times in people's lives
- The 'gold standard' for training and professional development. Faculty qualifications as the primary indicator of capability

Need to **demonstrate the benefit to commissioners and influencers**, and the importance of high-quality standards of professionals in this area to the wider public – “we don't know we need it until it happens to us” and also prevents issues in court cases/evidence quality, etc.

**Membership** – very engaged, supportive and appreciative – need to **tap into that much more**, and they need to be part of the process of change.

**Mapping** of key stakeholders/audiences – some came out as part of the discussion. Needs more attention but as a starter:

- Politicians (Home Office, staff and ministers, and possibly relate back to original grant?), wider MPs
- RCP and GMC and those who influence them
- NHS and NHS Executive; commissioning organisations
- CPS/Police & Chief Constables/Medical Examiners; Judges
- RCN/Paramedics/forensic scientists
- HMI, parent college, CQC, Children's Commissioner
- Charities linked to service users (this could be particularly useful in developing case stories to support the narrative) eg NSPCC/Rape Crisis
- Media – national but also sectoral as some of your stakeholders need to know more detail about what you do and how they can help

Potential to **review and present a model** of what works – comparison with model for consultant psychiatrists? Important to put forward solutions and help lead conversations about policy, standards and delivery.

Good at talking internally – need to **strengthen external profile**

#### Some potential solutions/activities

- Reboot of FFLM and all that it does to reinvigorate it using the strength and commitment of the membership channelled into some strategic activity

- Become a leader or convener of people – either by piggybacking on events or creating your own. A strong network of members – use it!
- Communications/advocacy campaign – develop key messages and series of activities to engage specific audiences with solutions/tackling possibly blockers to the specialty route
- Become more known to the media as a source of expertise for quotes/input to stories (create media directory? activate membership in this area?), look for avenues to promote the work such as podcasts, etc., and capitalise on the interest in forensic science

## Session 2

**Upselling what you do** – thinking about promotion/collaboration with private providers, CQC, Commissioners, Forensic Science Regulator. Promote excellent FFLM guidance as evidence of quality/specialism and ladder to formal qualification.

Emphasise the **benefit to those who receive the qualification** – Specialty status would help with this (formal training pathway/mandatory). However, career security; scope for enhanced financial reward (?) and embedding in JDs and competency frameworks would help with recognition now.

Issues around delivery – **reboot approach to examiners** as need a wider pool in place if you are able to scale up the numbers taking exams and, in particular, if exams become mandatory on achievement as a specialty.

Can you **streamline** the examinations process and/or make it more cost effective? Encourage new members to ‘work towards’ qualifications within two years?

### Issues to consider/be transparent around decision-making

Specialty of forensic vs. medico-legal – consensus that forensic might be initial priority?

International membership – can this be expanded upon in South Africa and India following responses in the membership survey? Need to balance with limited resources and what could be achieved.