**EB Chair’s Blog: Updates from the BDA England Board**

Dear Members,

I am pleased to share the latest updates and activities from the recent meeting of the BDA England Board held on May 30, 2024. Our discussions and initiatives continue to drive forward our commitment to advancing the dietetic profession and playing our part in delivery of the BDA’s Strategic Plan.

We welcomed Lindsey Marston as our new Policy and Campaigns Officer. Lindsey is eager to collaborate with us on the BDA’s campaigns: expanding free school meals, developing a UK-wide food strategy, strengthening the dietetic workforce, advocating for fair pay and working conditions, and securing independent prescribing rights for dietitians. Additionally, Joelle O’Toole joined us as the new Governance Officer, focusing on standardising processes across BDA boards and committees to enhance our operational efficiency.

**Major Projects and Initiatives**

1. **Workplan Development**

We are in the process of creating a comprehensive workplan tailored to our board’s goals. This plan outlines our contribution to the BDA Strategic Plan and how this will be achieved in the year ahead.

1. **Assessing Food Insecurity**

Led by Nusrat Kausar, this project aims to develop resources to help identify and address food insecurity. The team is working on gathering the necessary information and will collaborate with BDA branches and specialist groups to ensure comprehensive coverage.

1. **Reducing Health Inequalities**

This initiative, spearheaded by Tanya Rumney, focuses on educating about health inequalities and proposing strategies to mitigate them. A draft document will be reviewed by the Public Health group in July, with the final version expected by our September board meeting.

1. **Support for International Dietetic Students & Registered Dietitians**

Long Li is leading efforts to create resources for international dietetic students and professionals. A survey to identify the necessary information will be finalized and presented to the board in September, with the goal of distributing it and collecting data by November.

**Engagement and Outreach**

We are working hard to increase our engagement with members. Efforts include attending Branch and Specialist Group meetings to raise awareness about the England Board’s work and the value of dietitians. A presentation has been developed and will be shared across various branches to foster deeper connections and understanding.

**Additional Updates**

**Trade Union Update**: The ongoing deliberations of the NHS pay review body and collaborations with other unions to support our members were discussed.

**Safe Workload Project**: This is now complete and live on the web site, providing essential tools and resources for managing workloads effectively.

**Value of a Dietitian**: Tanya Rumney is leading a project to articulate the value of dietitians, aiming to produce a comprehensive report that highlights our contributions.

I want to thank all England Board members and BDA staff for their continued dedication and hard work. Together, we are making significant strides in supporting our profession and enhancing the impact of dietetics across England.

Looking forward to our continued collaboration and progress.

Best regards,

Dr Paul McArdle

Chair, BDA England Board