

CONSTITUTION

BRITISH ACADEMY OF CHILDHOOD DISABILITY (BACD)

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND DISABILITY GROUP (CDDG))

TITLE

THE BRITISH ACADEMY OF CHILDHOOD DISABILITY (BACD)

AIMS

1. To improve health services for children with disability and their families.
2. To support training, standard setting for services and audit in the field of child development and disability.
3. To ensure there are regular multi-disciplinary meetings on child development and disability.
4. To ensure that all professional disciplines, agencies and professional bodies involved in childhood disability can meet together and establish a network of contacts and mutual support for the dissemination of good practise.
5. To encourage research in child development and disability.
6. To provide paediatric representatives for national committees considering matters related to child development and disability.
7. To comment on reports and government initiatives related to child development and disability.

NATURE

8. The Academy is a multi-disciplinary organisation representing all disciplines working in the field of childhood disability. Its paediatric membership having close association with the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, the British Association for Community Child Health (operating as its paediatric subspecialty group) the British Paediatric Neurology Association and the European Academy of Childhood Disability. It seeks to build equivalent links with other professional organisations working in the field of childhood disability.

MEMBERSHIP

9. Membership shall be open to all professionals working predominantly in the field of childhood disability.
10. Members will pay an annual subscription which will be set at the Annual General Meeting.
11. Membership may be extended to other professional and voluntary bodies, and others on the advice of the Executive Committee.
12. Honorary membership may, exceptionally, be conferred on the advice of the Executive Committee

COMMITTEES

13. The Officers of the Association, elected from the membership of the Academy, shall be a Chairperson, Honorary secretary, Treasurer. They, together with 8 other elected officers, including a representative of the Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health Specialist Advisory Committee (CSAC) for neurodisability, and representatives, either elected or nominated by their professional organisations, from the five professions allied to medicine, BACCH, BPNA, and EACD, shall be the Executive committee.
14. The Chair and Officers shall be elected by postal ballot of all members, with the exception of the Trainee Representative, the representatives from BACCH, BPNA, and EACD and professionals allied to medicine and other relevant organisations.
15. The Chair and Treasurer will serve the first year after election as Officer-elect, to ensure a smooth handover. All Officers shall be elected for a three year period after which they will be ineligible for election to that office for the next two years
16. Other committee members will serve for a maximum period of three years after which they will be ineligible for re-election for the next two years unless elected to another portfolio or office.
17. Committee members shall each hold a portfolio. These must include
 - Assistant secretary (workforce planning and membership)
 - Editor of newsletter (serving first year as Deputy)
 - Academic Convenor
 - Chair of CSAC or Speciality Training Advisor for paediatrics
 - Audit and governance
 - Publications and website
 - Government policy
 - CDC liaison and directory
 - Nursing
 - Speech and Language therapy
 - Psychology
 - Physiotherapy
 - Occupational therapy
 - Bioengineering
 - Paediatric Trainee Representative (elected for two years by all trainees, must leave office no more than 6 months after gaining CCST or appointment as a Consultant, whichever occurs sooner)
18. Recruitment and election of new committee members is normally undertaken in the six months prior to the AGM, with elected posts starting and finishing at the AGM. In unusual circumstances the EC may vary from this timetable.
19. The Executive Committee has the power to co-opt members for specific purposes for specific periods.
20. The Executive Committee and any General Meetings shall be the decision-making bodies of the organisation.

THE COUNCIL

21. The Executive Committee, together with the Regional Coordinators, shall meet at least twice a year, as the Council of BACD. The Council will be a forum for discussion and advice to the Executive Committee from elected Regional Representatives and external representatives. Council will help shape policy, but decisions rest with the Executive, which shall take note of the views of Council in its decision-making.
22. Regional Representatives shall be elected for three years.
23. Representatives on Council will be cop-opted from external organisations with an interest in childhood disability. The Executive Committee will be responsible for invitations and organisation.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

24. Each member of the Association shall pay an annual subscription, the amount of the subscription to be determined by the Executive Committee and notified to the membership at the AGM each year.
25. Some members in particular circumstances may apply to pay fifty per cent of the subscription at the discretion of the Treasurer and Chair e.g. retired, unemployed, or overseas members from less prosperous countries.
26. Honorary members shall be exempt from paying a subscription.
27. Failure to pay the subscription will be held as a reason for termination of membership.

MEETINGS

28. The Executive Committee shall meet at least four times a year.
29. There shall be at least one scientific meeting each year that will be a national multi-disciplinary meeting on child development and disability, held in association with other organisations as appropriate. Other paediatric academic meetings will be held in association with BACCH and BPNA.
30. There will be an Annual General Meeting held during the course of the Annual Scientific Meeting for which not less than 28 days' notice shall be given.
31. The quorum for decisions at general meetings shall be twenty members of the Academy. The quorum at Executive Committee meetings shall be 6 members, two of whom must be Officers.
32. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be arranged if the Executive Committee decides or if twenty members apply in writing to the Chair. Not less than twenty-eight days' notice shall be given to all members of the meeting.
33. At all meetings of the Association, and of the committee, each member shall have one vote except for the Chair who will not normally vote. In the case of equality of votes the Chair shall have a casting vote. Honorary members shall not have a vote.

NEWSLETTER

34. A newsletter will be issued to all members at least twice a year.

ACCOUNTS

35. Accounts of the financial affairs of the Association shall be maintained by the Treasurer. The accounts shall be duly inspected by an independent Examiner appointed by the CDDG (BACD) and shall be presented at each Annual General Meeting.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

36. Amendment to the Constitution may be proposed at a quorate meeting of the Executive Committee, or by any twenty members submitting proposed amendments to the Chair or Honorary Secretary.
37. Amendments to the constitution may be made only by postal ballot of all members or at a quorate General Meeting provided that the proposed amendments have been circulated in writing to all members at least twenty-eight days before the meeting. Amendments shall take effect only on approval of at least two thirds of the those present and eligible to vote, or of at least two thirds of replies received to a postal ballot.

WINDING UP OF THE ASSOCIATION

38. In the event of the winding up of the Association, any outstanding funds shall be transferred to allied professional associations or charities at the discretion of the Executive Committee.