

Notes Following Inaugural Meeting held in London on 27th June 2008.

In Attendance

David Bingham
Debbie Thornton
Deborah Edwards
Elizabeth Waterman
Norman Cottington
Helen Merfield
Karenmarie Smith
Phil
Mark Armour
Jonathan Cook
Wilson Carswell
Neil Hopkinson
Stuart Paterson
Cathy Johnson
Helen Spillards
Melanie Summers
Simon Margolis

Company

IPRS
Premier Medical Group
Argent Rehabilitation
Jacqueline Webb & Co
TICCS The Injury Care Clinics
hcmI
Independent Living Solutions
Independent Living Solutions
Rehab Works
The Treatment Network
Moving Minds
Knight Rehab Services
Fit for Work
Rehab Without Walls
ICMC
AIG Medical & Rehabilitation
Premex

David Bingham introduced himself and advised that the initiative arose in response to general views that had been exchanged suggesting that there should be a Body representing Rehabilitation Providers as a professional and responsible Body working to support and uphold those Quality Standards and Codes of Practice that supports the ethos of the members of BARC.

To date, four meetings have taken place with a small group, namely Helen Merfield, Norman Cottington, Deborah Edwards, John Crawford and David Bingham, as a result of which the name was suggested, a Mission Statement was proposed and initial aims and objectives identified. Following these meetings, it was decided to canvas Rehabilitation Providers in general as to whether there is a role for the Association and what level of support would be envisaged.

Mission Statement proposed reads as follows.

“To protect the commercial interests and professional reputation of its members through collaboration and co-operation whilst adhering to Quality Standards”

The meeting was then left open for general comment and debate:

It was identified that the Association should be concerned solely with commercial and non-clinical issues. There should be no discussion or debate on matters of a competitive nature. There should always be open and honest communication, so as to maintain the Association's integrity.

It is to be hoped that the Association will be seen as a professional body with defined membership criteria, operating to Quality Standards, thereby attracting purchasers of services to ensure that any Provider they instruct is a member of BARC.

It is to be hoped that the Association would represent and lobby on behalf of its members. An example was given that the question of VAT on rehabilitation services would likely have been resolved much earlier had BARC been in existence and been able to speak for all providers.

The following comments were noted:

"This makes sense. Standards and regulations are appropriate. This will give a positive indication to the market."

"Rehab is in its infancy. This is needed, but we must proceed with caution. The association must have gravitas!"

"Why restrict the rehabilitation companies. Why not include, for example community matrons or community health workers?"

"There are a lot of niche players providing good services. Who do we invite?"

"The association could be seen as the chartered insurance institute to the ABI. Setting out the rules and standards to be practised by the individual companies."

Simon, as an ex Chair of AMRO expressed the view that AMRO had achieved a great deal for the medico legal reporting organisations, but that there were lessons to be learned.

"As AMRO is for medico legal report writers, so BARC should be the voice of rehabilitation companies."

"If BARC, as a professional body was existence, it would likely provide more confidence to purchasers, thereby increasing the amount of work likely to be made available. Cake could become bigger!"

"Is it possible to separate professional from clinical? Care will have to be taken as to how the two are separated."

"BARC will not be a regulatory body. It should merely have strict membership criteria and ensure that its members undertake to work to strict Quality Standards and a Code of Ethics."

“It would not be our role to become involved with clinical standards. These are already set by the various clinical bodies.”

“BARC for its members could become a marketing tool. Our industry has to be profitable.”

“Should we not look at other countries and learn from their success?”

“Our industry is growing up, what should be our aims?”

Wilson of Moving Minds offered his support for the proposed association, proposing a vote to push it forward to accept the Mission Statement and for each person present to put up £200, so to provide a fund to move forwards.

“We need to be seen to be inclusive, we should have an accreditation system and publicise Quality Standards. There is a need for companies to be progressive.”

“The principle of this is good and we should move forward.”

“The Mission Statement says it all.”

“We need to ensure that all trade organisations are supportive.”

“There is nothing else as an individual company that we can join.”

The mood overall indicated that this initiative should be progressed. There is a lot of work to do and decisions have to be made as to a committee and chairman. It was suggested that an independent chairman would project the company without any suggestion of self interest. There was general consensus to this, but concern as to expense.

It was explained that the four initial meetings to get us to this stage had already incurred some expense and that if we are to proceed, then we need to identify a working fund with a contribution from all those interested.

The meeting concluded with all those present agreeing to give the matter further consideration and to e-mail into the BARC website within the course of the next 7 days, providing their thoughts, questions, any matters of concern and most importantly indicating as to whether they feel that we should move forward with BARC and whether they and their organisation wish to participate further.

BARC
British Association of Rehabilitation Companies



This is a List of individuals who sent their apologies

John Crawford	Proclaim Care Limited
Heather Batey	Reach
Sam Harris	HACM
Neil Irwin	Corpore
Robert Taylor	RT Disability Consultants
Stephen Duckworth	Disability Matters
Matthew Lester	Papworth
Nancy Hempstead	Crawford Healthcare
Basil Nally	Premier Medical Group
Tom Cummings	Remploy
David Drew	Chillout Events
Susan Henry	Speed Medical
Veronica Downing	Rehability
Sally Swift	Medrep
Philip Johnson	Voc Consultant
Sue Clements	Disabled Living Foundation