

BOURNEMOUTH UNIVERSITY**CONFIRMED****UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE
HELD ON 2ND JULY 2008**

Present: Rev Dr D Hart (Chair)
Mr G Forbes, Mr M Hind, and Dr D Lilleker

Mr Forbes acted as the Committee Secretary

Apologies: Dr J Cobb, Prof J Fletcher, Mr D Gobbett, Dr I Hanson, Ms J Hanson, Dr
P Johnstone, Dr J Kiely, Dr A Ladkin and Dr G Roushan

ACTION**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 12TH MARCH**

The minutes were confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

2 MATTERS ARISING

2.1 With reference to minute 3.1 it was noted that staff in the School of Conservation Science were applying for the appropriate Human Tissues licence from the HTA. Other Schools had been asked to check whether they were conducting research involving the use of human tissue and it had been determined that only the School of Health and Social Care conducted this kind of research. However, the research was approved by NHS research ethics committees and human tissue was not stored at the University.

2.2 With reference to minute 4.3, it was reported that appendix 1 of the Code of practice had been updated to reflect HCS's current process of ethical approval. All of the other alteration to the code referred to in minutes 5.1 and 5.2 had been implemented.

3 ETHICAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH SPONSORS

3.1 The Committee noted the Cancer Research UK Code of practice and the editorial attached to the agenda. The Committee noted that the University had a great number and variety of existing and proposed links with external organisations and businesses. Such links were not limited to research contacts but covered other types of educational links, general business sponsorship, university investments and business contracts with companies providing services. It was noted that it was often difficult to avoid indirect contact with unacceptable businesses, one example being where the University might receive sponsorship or contracts from a subsidiary of a tobacco company. The Committee felt that there was a need for an overarching policy for dealing with ethical issues that should be communicated to staff from senior management and the University Board. Such a policy could include reference to the need to avoid research or other contacts with the tobacco industry. It was agreed that the Secretary would advise senior management of the Committee's views.

4 ETHICAL CONSENT ISSUES RAISED BY RESEARCHERS

4.1 The Committee considered two enquiries received from researchers whose projects were based in the School of HSC. One concerned the obtaining of consent from pub and club users and the other from homeless people. In neither case was it thought to be appropriate, or practical to obtain written consent as recommended by the University Code of Practice. The approved approach,

supported through Chair's action, was to allow for subjects to give verbal agreement for the interview and use of data. The researchers would be acting in accordance with the ethical guidance given by the Association of Social Anthropologists which was the appropriate professional body. The Committee agreed with the approval given by the Chair to the approach adopted by the School.

5 RESEARCH ETHICS CODE OF PRACTICE AND HUMAN PARTICIPANTS QUESTIONNAIRE

5.1 The Secretary explained that Dr Johnson (Chair at the last meeting of the research Ethics Committee) had written to all Schools asking for comments on the Code of Practice and the Human Participants Questionnaire (HPQ). At the time of the meeting no detailed responses had been received and it was agreed that members and the Secretary would remind Deputy Deans (Research) that their comments would be appreciated.

5.2 The Committee agreed that once comments had been received it would be time to introduce the Code of Practice and HPQ, hopefully in time for the start of the new academic year. It was also noted that the Secretary was about to leave the University and that new arrangements would be needed to support the Committee and introduce the new approval system. The Secretary was asked to remind senior management of the need for new admin support for the Committee.

6 ETHICAL ISSUES IN RESEARCH

The Chair drew the Committees' attention to the award of a research grant to Prof J Parker in the School of HSC to explore the ramifications of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 on University Research Ethics Committees, who are developing social science research proposals. It was agreed that the Secretary would ask Prof Parker for more information about his research.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the University Research Ethics Committee would be on 26th November at 12.30pm. It was hoped that the revised start time and new dates would encourage the attendance of more members.