

03 May 2004

## ALCOHOL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH COUNCIL GETS SIX NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Alcohol Education and Research Council, which administers the Alcohol Education and Research Fund, is to get six new board members from 1 April 2004.

Professor Richard Hobbs, Professor David Foxcroft, Gerard Hastings, Joyce Craig, Jean Coussins and John Ford have been appointed to the Alcohol Education and Research Council by the Minister for Sport and Tourism, Richard Caborn. The appointments will last three years and begin on 1 April 2004.

From the same date John Bennett, Professor Robin Davidson, Henry Fairweather, David Rae, Professor Richard Velleman and Dr Elizabeth Thom who have served two terms at the Council will be standing down.

The appointments will bring a broad range of experience to the Board.

Biographical details:

### Professor Richard Hobbs

Professor Hobbs is currently at the Department of Law at the University of Durham as Professor of Criminology. He is on the Editorial Board of the British Journal of Criminology, writes articles for The Independent and is a regular contributor to radio and television programmes on issues of crime and policing. He has been the author of several official reports including Middle Market Drug Distribution (2001) and Auditing the Impact of Alcohol and Crime (2002), both for the Home Office.

### Professor David Foxcroft

Currently Professor of Health Care at the School of Health and Social Care, Oxford Brookes University (1999 - ) where he is Director of Research. His numerous other appointments include member of the Drugs and Alcohol Misuse Review Group Editorial Board for the International Cochrane Collaboration, member of the Drug Misuse Steering Group for the Health Development Agency and member of the practice steering group for the UK Blueprint drug and alcohol prevention programme. He has also acted as a Specialist Advisor to the WHO Mental Health and Substance Dependence Office and is a regular contributor to scientific meetings on the topic of alcohol and drug misuse prevention.

### Gerard Hastings

Currently Professor of Social Marketing and Director of the Centre for Social Marketing (since 1992) and the Centre for Tobacco Control Research (since 1999), at the University of Strathclyde (shortly to move to Stirling University/Open University.) His many current appointments include Special Advisor to the House of Commons Select Committee on Health, a member of the Advisory Council, Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), advisor to the WHO on alcohol, tobacco and public

health policy and a member of the DoH Choosing Health Initiative. He is also European Editor of Social Marketing Quarterly and on the editorial board of several other journals.

#### Joyce Craig

Currently the Senior Health Economist at NHS Quality Improvement Scotland, where she provides advice on cost effectiveness of health care interventions and therapies to NHS Scotland and related health bodies such as the Scottish Medicines Consortium.

#### Jean Coussins

Currently Chief Executive of the Portman Group, a not-for-profit organisation funded by leading alcoholic drinks producers to promote sensible drinking and responsible marketing by the industry. She sits on the Scottish Ministerial Advisory Committee on Alcohol Problems and was a member of the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit's Advisory Group on alcohol harm reduction in England. She is also an independent member of the BBFC Advisory Council, the Council of the Advertising Standards Authority and the Better Regulation Task Force. Prior to the Portman Group she worked at the Commission for Racial Equality as the Director responsible for equality assurance (1994-96) and social policy (1988-94).

#### John Ford

Company Secretary at North British Distillery Co Ltd. In the role, his responsibilities include the company's financial management. A qualified accountant, he was previously a Management Accountant at the Company (1975-1986).

None of the appointees has carried out any political activity in the last five years.

#### **Notes to editors**

1. The Alcohol Education Research Council is a Non-Departmental Government Body (NDPB) established in 1982 by an Act of Parliament. The primary aims of the Council are: to develop the evidence base relating to alcohol interventions and to develop the alcohol research and education capacity of individuals and organisations.
2. The Board is currently chaired by Dr Noel Olsen.
3. The Trustee posts are not remunerated.
4. This appointment has been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice.
5. All appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process.

