

Health Professions Council – 7 July 2010

Reports from Council representatives at external meetings

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

The attached feedback forms have been received from the following members of Council, reporting back from meetings at which they have represented the HPC:-

Joy Tweed
Annie Turner
Neil Willis
Diane Waller

Decision

The Council is requested to note the documents.

Background information

None

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

The cost for attendance at conferences/meetings has been incorporated into the Council annual budget.

Background papers

None

Appendices

Copies of feedback forms

Date of paper

28 June 2010

Name of Council Member	Joy Tweed
Title of event	Public and Patient Involvement Group UK Health and Social Care regulators
Date of event	May 4th
Approximate attendance at event	20+ people
<p>Issues of Relevance to HPC</p> <p>This was a facilitated session attended by Anna and myself. The purpose was to review the purpose of the group. Some of the outcomes from the meeting:</p> <p>Successes of the PPI group were seen as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising the profile of PPI in regulation • Being seen as the voice of PPI in regulation • Completion of successful projects such as the Use of Registers project • Networking <p>Some of the challenges were seen as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of clarity around the role of the group – strategic/operational • Inconsistency of membership • Feeding back information to the different regulatory bodies • How to evaluate the success of the group • Ambiguity around the role of CHRE, PPI and the group. <p>Is there a future for the group?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, enables sharing of good practice • Yes, avoids duplication of work • Yes, and need to ensure that there is a consistency of membership and where possible a council member from each regulatory body • Possibly spend different meetings looking at different aspects of PPI, such as in CPD to enable sharing of experience and ideas. Maybe less project work and only if need for joint working apparent. 	
<p>Key Decisions Taken</p> <p>For the PPI group to continue. To consider how the work of the group can be fed back to Councils.</p>	

Name of Council Member	Annie Turner
Title of event	HEALTH network group Advisory Board meeting
Date of event	4th June 2010
Approximate attendance at event	12
Issues of Relevance to HPC	
<p>The group's response to the NMC consultation document was given. The NMC representative stated that outcomes will be presented on 23rd July and new Standards will be published on 16th September.</p> <p>An update on HPC activities was given. This prompted considerable debate around the contrasting responses to revalidation by the GMC, NMC and HPC. Initially it was felt that the GMC response was most advanced but after discussion it was noted that the reflective responses of the NMC and HPC may lead to different outcomes.</p> <p>There was discussion on the potential viability of certain organisations following the perspective of the new government.</p> <p>The Council of Deans saw their focus as proactive intelligence and action around the future structures within health and social care; the future roles of HEIs; commissioning within nursing, midwifery and health professions and funding perspectives of the new government. There was considerable debate around the issues related to the equity of funding amongst nursing/midwifery diploma/degree students following the decision for all degree education. In particular there was discussion on the potential equity/inequity with other health professional degree level students, along with the proposal within the Multi Professional Education and Training (MPET) review of the potential introduction of a placement payment rate of £94 per student placement week.</p>	
Key Decisions Taken	
No specific decisions of relevance to HPC were taken.	

Name of Council Member	Neil Willis
Title of event	Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Council Meeting
Date of event	4 June 2010
Approximate attendance at event	28
Issues of Relevance to HPC	
<u>Modernising Scientific Careers</u>	
<p>The MSC project was discussed at length following reports from a number of meetings including those from;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Health Modernising Scientific Careers Program team and the IBMS • The MSC Advisory Group to the UK Healthcare Science Educational and 	

Training Board

- Meeting with Unite representatives
- Modernising Scientific Careers Project – South West Strategic Health Authority

The IBMS is clearly not in favour of the potential removal of the protected title Biomedical Scientist and finds the rationale behind the requirement for removal difficult to understand.

There continues to be a lack of information as to the specific details of the project particularly regarding the eventual composition and operational aspects of the awarding body.

It was reported that an indicative academic curriculum for blood sciences has been drafted and responses were awaited by the development team and it has been confirmed that the IBMS will be involved in the process of the Higher Specialist Scientist Training (HSST) programs and the curricular development for the Practitioner Training Program (PTP).

The first intake for the PTP for most disciplines will be 2011 although the University of Westminster will run a course in genetic technology from September 2010. The course has not yet been reviewed by the QAA and until such time as HPC approval is awarded the course will receive an NHS accreditation “kite mark”.

Implementation plans for MSC are being discussed in England, Ireland and Wales but not in Scotland where they are in favour of retaining the existing regulatory process.

The DoH has requested that Strategic Health Authorities in England invite professional bodies to an MSC meeting on 10 July and Biomedical Scientists are encouraged to attend. Early adopter sites are involved in evolving the local MSC structures and provide input into the national early adopter steering group which will then disseminate the structures across the SHAs. It is proposed that the medical professions will be informed about the MSC process later in the year.

HPC Approval visit

The IBMS is pleased to have their Certificate of Competence process approved following the HPC visit. The executive commended the HPC staff on their professional approach to the visit but felt the registrant undertaking the visit could have been better prepared. The visit resulted in six conditions which the IBMS have now met.

Code of Conduct and Returning to Practice

The IBMS Code of Conduct has been updated and complements the HPC standards of Proficiency and Standards of Conduct Competence and Ethics and the Returning to Practice.

The IBMS has also produced profession specific guidance on Returning to Practice again complementing the HPC publication.

Key Decisions Taken

The IBMS will continue to press for more detailed information on the MSC project and will make all efforts to ensure that Biomedical Scientist will remain a protected title.

Name of Council Member	Diane Waller
Title of event	Transactional Analysis annual conference
Date of event	26.6.10
Approximate attendance at event	180
Issues of Relevance to HPC	
<p>Panel to discuss issues about regulation with HPC and how they would affect psychotherapists and counsellors. Also present CE of the UKCP, Chair of BACP and a member of TA/UKCP (who was asked by organisers to represent views of the Alliance but is not a member herself). Questions had been issued to the panel in advance. Still confusion about the differing roles of HPC, Skills for Health, NICE and IAPT and what is meant by the 'State'. Also worries about how/if to distinguish between counsellors and psychotherapists. Followed by workshop to pick up some of the issues from the morning. Took the opportunity to correct misinformation and again to clarify queries about relationship between HPC, NICE etc. Supported by the PBs panel members who explained steps they were taking to continue work of PLG.</p>	
Key Decisions Taken	
<p>Reinforced need for constant correction by HPC of misinformation that appears on some websites and circulates as rumour as this causes unnecessary alarm. Professional bodies pledged to continue to meet and work on the outstanding issues.</p>	