

Health Professions Council meeting – 7 July 2010

Annual review of actions taken in 2009-2010: Public meetings

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

An annual review of the actions arising from meetings in 2009-2010 is attached.

Decision

The Council is asked to note the actions that have been taken.

Background information

Please refer to individual papers and minutes for the background to decisions. Minutes and papers for previous public meetings are available on the HPC website at:

http://www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/council/councilmeetings_archive/

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

None

Appendices

List of actions arising from meetings in 2009-10

Date of paper

23 June 2010

Actions - Health Professions Council meeting 6 July 2009

	Action point (and location in minutes)	Action for	Comment
1	<p>14.09/117 Recommendations from the Psychotherapists and Counsellors Professional Liaison Group</p> <p>The Council noted the difficulty with regards to the voluntary transfer of between 30 and 40 registers. Members noted that there would be further reports on this particular aspect of the regulation of counsellors and psychotherapists.</p> <p>A member commented that the section on grandparenting required some clarification and the Acting Director of Policy and Standards undertook to review this.</p>	Director of Policy and Standards	At the December 2009 meeting of Council, full consideration was given to the recommendations of the PLG. Whilst some recommendations such as the protection of the two titles and the grandparenting period were agreed to, it was decided that further work needed to be carried out by the PLG with regards to other areas such as differentiation.
2	<p>18.09/121 Council Members' performance and development review</p> <p>Council agreed to refer the report back to the Executive to consider possible training opportunities for Council members.</p>	Secretary to Council	Currently members are undertaking individual training relevant to their Committee responsibilities such as work-shadowing and education approval visits. The Council strategy day and away days continue to provide training to the Council as a whole.

Actions - Health Professions Council meeting 10 September 2009

	Action point (and location in minutes)	Action for	Comment
1	<p>Item 9.09/144 Revalidation Project Update (report ref:- HPC112/09)</p> <p>The Council agreed to receive a further paper at a future Council meeting.</p>	Director of Policy and Standards	The Council have received regular updates on the revalidation project. Durham University (who are carrying out two research projects examining different aspects of the link between conduct concerns during pre-registration education and training and subsequent fitness to practice concerns) are due to present on the projects' objectives, methodology being used, progress made to date and expected outcomes at today's meeting.
2	<p>Item 10.09/145 CHRE Performance Review (report ref:- HPC113/09)</p> <p>The Council noted the CHRE Performance Review and requested that the Education and Training Committee consider further the issue of student fitness to practise committees as outlined in 10.3.</p>	Director of Policy and Standards and Director of Education together with the Education and Training Committee	On 25 November 2009, the Education and Training Committee received a paper from the Executive to note updating it on work on student fitness to practise committees. A further paper is planned to be presented to the Education and Training Committee for discussion at its meeting in September 2010.
3	<p>Item 12.09/146 Application for the Regulation of Sonographers from the Society and College of Radiographers (report ref:- HPC115/09)</p> <p>(i) Requested that the Executive</p>	Director of Policy and Standards	The text of the letter was considered and agreed at the meeting of Council on 7 October 2009.

	<p>report back to the October Council meeting, setting out the text of the letter to be sent to the Secretary of State for Health which outlined the issues raised during the course of debate.</p>		
4	<p>Item 13.09/147 Application for the Regulation of Genetic Counsellors from the Association of Genetic Counsellors and Nurses (report ref:- HPC116/09) The Council agreed to invite the Association of Genetic Counsellors and Nurses to present their application at the next available Council meeting.</p>	<p>Director of Policy and Standards together with the Association of Genetic Counsellors and Nurses</p>	<p>Genetic counsellors gave a presentation at the December 2009 Council meeting and it was agreed to recommend the regulation of this aspirant profession to the Secretary of State for Health and the Scottish Ministers under Article 3 (17) (a) of the Health Professions Order 2001.</p>
5	<p>Item 14.09/148 Extending Professional and Occupational Regulation (report ref:- HPC117/09) The Council agreed to discuss the report in more detail at the February 2010 Strategy Session. However, in the meantime, Committees would consider the specific issues pertinent to their remit detailed in the report.</p>	<p>Secretary to Council together with Council and relevant Committees.</p>	<p>These issues were covered in the strategy session held on 11 February 2010.</p>

Actions - Health Professions Council meeting 7 October 2009

	Action point (and location in minutes)	Action for	Comment
1	<p>Item 13.09/180 22-26 Stannary Street Limited (report ref:- HPC142/09)</p> <p>13.5 The Council approved to the winding up of 22-26 Stannary Street, subject to confirmation from the HMRC regarding tax implications.</p>	Director of Finance	There remain some outstanding issues with regards to the tax treatment of the Company and once resolved, an application to dissolve the company will be made.

Actions - Health Professions Council meeting 10 December 2009

	Action point (and location in minutes)	Action for	Comment
1	<p>Item 8.09/201 Chief Executive's report (report ref:- HPC197/09)</p> <p>Council noted that the Executive considered complaints on a monthly basis to see if any trends could be drawn out and in addition, what measures could be introduced to improve service and processes. A copy of the complaints report considered by the Executive on a monthly basis would be submitted to the next appropriate Council meeting for information.</p> <p>Following a question on improving the efficiency of the Fitness to Practise process, it was agreed that the next meeting of the Fitness to Practise Committee (FtP) in February would consider the type of information that it would be helpful to provide to all members of Council so they are kept up-to-date on the performance of the FtP function.</p> <p>The Executive were asked to consider the correlation between the number of Registrants and the number of Fitness to Practise complaints received to see if there was a rise in the number of complaints following the statutory regulation of practitioner psychologists.</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Director of Fitness to Practise</p> <p>Director of Fitness to Practise</p>	<p>The customer feedback report was considered at the March 2010 meeting of Council.</p> <p>This was considered at the Fitness to Practise meeting on 25 February 2010.</p> <p>This was included in the Director's report to the FtP Committee in February.</p>
2	<p>Item 10.09/203 Conclusions on the proposed statutory regulation of Psychotherapists and Counsellors (report ref:- HPC199/09)</p> <p>Council agreed:-</p> <p>The need to do further work in certain areas in collaboration with members of the counselling and psychotherapy professions and other stakeholders. This work was to be carried out with the assistance of the PLG, whose governance arrangements would be subject to Council approval following a full review; and</p>	<p>The Executive</p>	<p>A report outlining the governance arrangements and the workplan was considered and approved by Council on 10 March 2010.</p>

	<p>The proposed PLG workplan to be submitted to Council for approval in due course.</p>	<p>Director of Policy and Standards</p>	
3.	<p>Item 11.09/204 CHRE Review of the conduct function of the General Social Care Council (England): Learning points for HPC (report ref:-HPC200/09)</p> <p>The Council recommended that consideration be given to how the Council can assure itself as to the quality of Fitness to Practise decisions at the next Fitness to Practise Committee in February 2010.</p>	<p>Director of Fitness to Practise</p>	<p>This was considered at the Fitness to Practise meeting on 25 February 2010.</p>
4.	<p>Item 17.09/210 First Continuing Professional Development (CDP) Report (Report ref:-HPC 206/09)</p> <p>A suggestion was made that the amended version of the report be presented to the next Education and Training Committee in March 2010 and the Committee should have delegated authority to agree the report in its final form on behalf of the Council.</p> <p>The Council agreed to delegate approval of the final print ready version of the report for publication following further consideration at the Education and Training Committee meeting in March 2010.</p>	<p>Director of Communications</p>	<p>This was considered at the Education and Training Committee on 10 March 2010.</p>
5.	<p>Item 19.09/212 The Health Professions Council (Registration and Fees) (Amendment) Rules 2010 (Report ref:-HPC 208/09)</p> <p>19.2 The Council agreed</p> <p>(ii) that approval of the Rules in their final form be given by means of electronic resolution once the Health Professions (Hearing Aid Dispensers) Order 2009 has been approved by Parliament; and subject to the Solicitor to Council providing a report confirming</p>	<p>Secretary to Council</p>	<p>The Section 60 Order which introduced the statutory regulation of Hearing Aid Dispensers by the HPC was</p>

	<p>that either (1) no amendments have been made to the draft Rules or (2) that any amendments which have been made do not constitute material changes to the content of those draft Rules.</p>	<p>approved by the Privy Council at their meeting on 10 February. It was therefore not necessary to use the electronic resolution means of approval and the Rules were approved by Council on 11 February 2010.</p>
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Actions - Health Professions Council meeting 10 February 2010

Action point (and location in minutes)	Action for	Comment
<p>Item 9.10/09 Standards of proficiency and threshold level for entry to the Register for hearing aid dispensers (report ref:- HPC05/10) The Council agreed that it would be helpful to develop some “frequently asked questions (FAQ’s)” around the issue of threshold levels for this part of the register.</p>	<p>Charlotte Urwin, Policy Manager</p>	<p>The “FAQ’s” can now be found on the website.</p>
<p>Item 12.10/12 Partner reappointment and agreement renewal (report ref:- HPC08/10) That 185 Panel Members and 13 Panel Chairs with agreements that are due to expire on 31 July 2010 be subject to the reappointment process set out in the attached paper, with the reappointment process to be evaluated after one year</p>	<p>Katherine Neuschafer, Partner Manager</p>	<p>The reappointment process will be evaluated one year after operation.</p>

Actions - Health Professions Council meeting 25 March 2010

	Action point (and location in minutes)	Action for	Comment
1	<p>Item 3.10/27 Approval of agenda</p> <p>3.1 The Council approved the agenda.</p> <p>3.2 The Council noted the large agenda. This had arisen because only time critical papers were considered at the February meeting, as this meeting was timetabled as a strategy meeting of the Council. The Chair suggested that, in future, Council should meet over two days, with a strategy day be held the day before the Council meeting to allow more time for both. Members of the Council concurred with this suggestion.</p>	Secretary to Council	Strategy Day to be held on 9 February 2011.
2	<p>Item 11.10/35 CHRE Fitness to Practise Audit report: Audit of health professions regulatory bodies' initial decisions (report ref:- HPC23/10)</p> <p>The Council agreed:-</p> <p>(iii) to instruct the Executive to produce a report detailing the approach taken to deal with self-referral.</p>	Director of Fitness to Practise	A paper was considered by the Education and Training Committee at its meeting on 8 June 2010.
3	<p>Item 13.10/37 The HPC approach to justice and impairment (report ref:- HPC25/10)</p> <p>13.4 The Council agreed the content of the paper and noted that there needed to be some amendments to the language and content in advance of its wider circulation.</p>	Director of Fitness to Practise	There is a paper on today's agenda.
4	<p>Item 14.10/38 Practice Note "Standard of acceptance of allegations" (report ref:- HPC26/10)</p>	Director of Fitness to Practise	This one is ongoing as new trends emerge

	<p>14.4 The Council :-</p> <p>(ii) agreed that as and when further trends emerge, the Executive will revise the practice note accordingly for approval by Council.</p>		
5	<p>Item 16.10/40 Modernising Scientific Careers (Report ref:-HPC28/10)</p> <p>16.5 The Council noted the report and requested the Executive to:-</p> <p>(ii) invite the Chief Scientific Officer to attend Council at her convenience to answer questions on the issues relating to Modernising Scientific Careers.</p>	Chief Executive and Registrar	Chief Scientific Officer to attend meeting of Council on 17 September 2010.