

Health Professions Council – 5 July 2012

Annual review of actions taken in 2011-2012

Executive summary and recommendations

**Introduction**

An annual review of the actions arising from meetings in 2011-2012 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/committees/archive/>

**Resource implications**

None

**Financial implications**

None

**Appendices**

List of actions arising from meetings in 2011-12

**Date of paper**

21 June 2012

Actions - Health Professions Council meeting 7 July 2011

	Action point (and location in minutes)	Action for	Comment
1	<p><b>Item 9.11/106 Establishing voluntary registers and making recommendations for statutory regulation (report ref:-HPC75/11)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was agreed the Executive should be tasked with re-drafting the principles outlined in section five in the light of discussions and that these should not be written in absolute terms but as “guiding” principles;</li> <li>That further consideration at a future meeting be given to section six of the paper relating to prioritisation, costs, capacity and the external environment and models of regulation/registration.</li> </ul>	Director of Policy and Standards	<p>Completed.</p> <p>On 22 September 2011, the Council approved a draft statement of policy setting out the Council’s approach to the issue of voluntary registration, subject to amendments.</p>
2.	<p><b>Item 11.11/108 Ownership of the outline curriculum framework for independent and supplementary prescribing (report ref:- HPC77/11)</b></p> <p>(ii) to instruct the Executive to write to the Department of Health with the Council’s response.</p>	Policy Manager	Completed
3.	<p><b>Item 21.11/118 2010-2011 Draft HPC annual report and accounts (report ref:- HPC87/11)</b></p> <p>(ii) consideration be given to the final version of the annual report at the Finance and Resources Committee meeting on 7 September, at a special meeting of the Audit Committee on 8 September and at Council on 22 September 2011, subject to the NAO reaching an unqualified decision.</p>	Director of Finance	<p>Completed.</p> <p>Following work undertaken over summer 2011, the annual report was approved by an additional meeting of the Audit Committee on 20 October 2011 and by the Council on the same day.</p>

Actions - Health Professions Council meeting 22 September 2011

	Action point (and location in minutes)	Action for	Comment
1	<p><b>Item 8.11/145 Chief Executive's report (report ref:- HPC 104/11) (Discussion re length of time for FtP cases to be concluded)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was noted that based on the processes in place, the minimum time for a case to be concluded was 11 months. However, this was on the basis of all parties responding within the timeframes and no delaying tactics being adopted. A suggestion was made that Council receive a presentation on the process. Council members were keen to emphasise the importance of dealing with cases as quickly as possible in the interests of public protection;</li> </ul>	Director of Fitness to Practise	<p>A paper on the Council agenda for 20 October 2011 ('Modern and efficient Fitness to Practise adjudication') provided more detail on the process.</p> <p>See action point 3 for the meeting on 20 October 2011.</p>
2.	<p><b>Item 9.11/146 Establishing voluntary registers and making recommendations for statutory regulation (report ref:-HPC 105/11)</b></p> <p>(ii) that further consideration be given to those suggestions that arose during the course of discussion also detailed above.</p>	Director of Policy and Standards	<p>Ongoing. A further paper on voluntary registration was considered by the Council in February 2012.</p> <p>See action point 4 for the meeting on 9 February 2012.</p>
3.	<p><b>Item 11.11/148 Reports of the Health Committee annual accountability hearings of the General Medical Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council (report ref:- HPC 107/11)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council noted that a paper would be considered by Council at their next meeting in October relative to the separation of the adjudication function from the case management function;</li> </ul>	Director of Fitness to Practise	<p>A paper was included on the agenda for the Council meeting on 20 October 2011.</p> <p>See action point 3 for that meeting.</p>

4.	<p><b>Item 11.11/148 Reports of the Health Committee annual accountability hearings of the General Medical Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council (report ref:- HPC 107/11)</b></p> <p>11.4 The Council noted that the paper identified the following actions for HPC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Executive would ensure that the themes relating to revalidation in the Health Committee’s conclusions and recommendations would be included in the report to the Council on revalidation currently planned in December 2011 or February 2012;</li> <li>• the Executive would continue to engage in the European Commission’s review of the Professional Qualifications Directive and update the Council as appropriate;</li> <li>• the issue of reporting concerns about poor practice should be considered in the next review of the Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics. The Executive planned to bring a proposal for this work to the Council in May 2012; and</li> <li>• the Executive would produce a paper looking at the HPC’s existing approach to demographic data collection and present this to the Council in 2012/2013, as part of a review of HPC’s current work on equality and diversity.</li> </ul>	Director of Policy and Standards	Ongoing
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Actions - Health Professions Council meeting 20 October 2011

	Action point (and location in minutes)	Action for	Comment
1.	<p><b>Item 7.11/179 Voluntary registration of students – impact assessment and consultation (report ref:- HPC 119/11)</b></p> <p>Council approved the ‘first stage impact assessment’ and consultation document for publication subject to consideration of the amendments suggested during the course of discussion and minor editing amendments.</p>	Director of Policy and Standards	<p>Completed. HPC consulted on student fitness to practise and registration from 1 November 2011 to 2 March 2012.</p> <p>On 10 May 2012, the Council reviewed the responses to the consultation. The Council agreed that there would not be a student register for the professions it currently regulates.</p> <p>The Council also agreed that in the long term the fitness to practise of social work students is best managed by the education providers in accordance with the HPC’s standards for education and training. However, the Council acknowledged this would place new requirements on social work education providers in England and agreed to consider transitional arrangements to effect this change.</p>

2.	<p><b>Item 8.11/180 Alternative Mechanisms to resolve disputes (report ref:- HPC 120/11)</b></p> <p>Council agreed that the Executive should conduct a voluntary mediation project to determine the use and value of such a process to complainants and registrants, with a focus on its contribution to public protection.</p>	Director of Fitness to Practise	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>The Fitness to Practise Department workplan for 2012-13 includes work to prepare and implement an operational pilot.</p>
3.	<p><b>Item 10.11/182 CHRE report on 'Modern and efficient fitness to practise adjudication' (report ref:- HPC 122/11)</b></p> <p>Council agreed the work plan set out in appendix one to the paper</p> <p>Council requested the Executive to submit a paper to the next meeting of Council providing further information on the issue of cost powers.</p>	Director of Fitness to Practise	<p>Completed.</p> <p>A paper on the issue of cost powers was on the agenda for the Council on 6 December 2011. The Council agreed that the HPC should not seek powers to impose costs in fitness to practise or registration appeal proceedings.</p>

Actions - Health Professions Council meeting 6 December 2011

	Action point (and location in minutes)	Action for	Comment
1.	<p><b>Item 11.11/214 Revalidation: Service user involvement (report ref:- HPC 145/11)</b></p> <p>11.3 The Council discussed the paper. In discussion, the following points were made:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That it would be useful to produce a summary of the report for dissemination to registrants;</li> </ul> <p>11.4 Council noted the contents of the report and agreed that a summary paper outlining the key findings of the research should be disseminated to registrants.</p>	Director of Policy and Standards	<p>Completed.</p> <p>The research has been published on the HPC's website.</p>
2.	<p><b>Item 27.11/229 Any other business: Proposed government response to CHRE's report "Board Size and Effectiveness"</b></p> <p>27.6 The Council agreed:-</p> <p>(i) to discuss the proposals in detail at the next workshop scheduled for 8 February 2012; and</p>	Secretary to Council	<p>Completed.</p> <p>The discussion was held at the strategy session on 8 February 2012.</p>

Actions - Health Professions Council meeting 9 February 2012

	Action point (and location in minutes)	Action for	Comment
1.	<p><b>Item 7.12/7 Chair's report (report ref:- HPC3/12)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A full report on the Chair's visit to Australia would be submitted to the next meeting of Council;</li> </ul>	Secretary to Council	<p>Completed.</p> <p>A paper was included on the agenda for the meeting on 29 March 2012.</p>
2.	<p><b>Item 8.12/8 Chief Executive's report (report ref:- HPC4/12)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern was expressed that on page 7 of the narrative part of the report, the term "clinical" was being used in relation to social workers. The Council were assured that the recruitment advertisement used the term "practising." The Council were in agreement that it would be helpful to have a briefing in relation to appropriate language to be used, given the increased remit of HPC. It was noted that practising social workers were often described as "front line";</li> </ul>	Secretary to Council	A briefing will be incorporated into the provisional programme for the October awayday.
3.	<p><b>Item 9.12/9 Strategic Intent 2012-2015 (report ref:- HPC5/12)</b></p> <p>9.4 The Council agreed to invite the Executive to present a final draft for approval at the next meeting of Council. This would incorporate those suggestions made during the course of discussion and set out under 9.3.</p>	Director of Policy and Standards	<p>Completed.</p> <p>A paper was on the agenda for the meeting on 29 March 2012. The Council agreed the text of the strategic intent for publication on the HPC website, subject to minor amendment.</p>
4.	<p><b>Item 10.12/10 Voluntary Registration (report ref:- HPC6/12)</b></p> <p>The Council agreed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(ii) submit a further paper to a future meeting of Council seeking further discussion on a policy and</li> </ul>	Director of Policy and Standards	An update is provided in the paper on the agenda for today's meeting, entitled 'CHRE consultation on draft standards for the



	<p>criteria for how the Council might exercise its Article 3(17) powers to recommend statutory regulation in the future;</p> <p>(iii) submit a further paper to a future meeting of Council to look at the kinds of issues that might be considered or included in an impact assessment on establishing a voluntary register;</p> <p>(iv) submit a further paper looking at the adult social care workforce in England, and keeping Council informed of any changes or developments in government policy in this area.</p>		<p>accreditation of voluntary registers’.</p>
5.	<p><b>Item 12.12/12 Professionalism in nursing, midwifery and the allied health professions in Scotland (report ref:- HPC8/12)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The suggestion was made that the Education and Training Committee be tasked with looking at those recommendations of the paper that could be taken forward by HPC, a suggestion that members concurred with.</li> </ul> <p>12.5 The Council noted the report and agreed to forward the report to the Education and Training Committee for further consideration.</p>	<p>Secretary to Council</p>	<p>To be considered at the September 2012 meeting of the Education and Training Committee.</p>