

Council, 26 March 2014

Reports from Council representatives at external meetings

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

The following feedback has been received from Council Members reporting back from meetings at which they represented the HCPC:

- The Annual Jephcott Lecture, Royal Society of Medicine – Anna van der Gaag

Decision

The Council is requested to note the report.

Background information

None

Resource implications

None.

Financial implications

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

Appendices

Feedback form.

Date of paper

17 March 2014

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS TO REPRESENT HCPC

Name of Council Member	Anna van der Gaag
Title of Conference/Meeting	Robert Francis QC The Annual Jephcott Lecture, Royal Society of Medicine. LONDON (invited audience)
Date of Conference	6pm, 11 March 2014
Approximate number of people at the conference/meetings	300

The main focus of this lecture was on the role of professionalism in medicine following the Mid Staffordshire Inquiry.

Historically, the medical profession has had an ongoing struggle between 'healing and collegiality' On the one hand, medicine has a imperative to 'heal the sick, do no harm, do what is right for the patient'. But there has also been a strong draw towards collegiality, the mutual support of colleagues. Supporting those who are 'like yourself' has been an important driver for the profession.

The evidence from the Inquiry suggests that part of the problem is the loss of conscience, and rise of self interest within the profession. Taking the path of least resistance, fear of loss of discretionary points, a 'Mend and make do' mentality were all evident at Mid Staffs, and we now know that Mid Staffs is 'not unique'.

Despite this, medicine is still held in high regard by the public. There is a unique opportunity now for professionalism in medicine to assert itself. Professionalism should be taught to doctors, and supported in doctors' behaviour once they begin working. When a concern is raised, the culture must not obscure it. The messenger should not be punished. Doctors need to see themselves are part of a team, not always leaders of the team. Others may be more appropriate as leaders. Doctors should not be resistant to changes in infrastructure if the changes are in the interests of patients. All doctors should take responsibility for management and leadership, not just the few. And finally, put the patient first! Services should be delivered when and where patients need them, not when convenient for the service. Partnership, not paternalism, should be the norm.

Implications for HCPC

The message from this lecture reinforces the HCPC's ongoing emphasis on promoting professionalism in health and care professionals. Francis argued that professionalism should be taught to students and supported throughout the career of health and care professionals. It is fundamental to good care.

Please complete as much of the above as you can and return to Secretariat, Health and Care Professions Council, Park House, 184 Kennington Park Road, London, SE11 4BU.