

Council, 11 February 2015

Policy and Standards report

Executive summary and recommendations

**Introduction**

The report provides an update about the activities of the Policy and Standards Department.

**Decision**

The Council is requested to discuss the report.

**Background information**

None

**Resource implications**

None

**Financial implications**

None

**Appendices**

None

**Date of paper**

29 January 2015

## **Policy and Standards Department – Council meeting, 11 February 2015**

The following provides an update about the work of the Department.

### **Extension of prescribing rights**

- The Department of Health has established a project board to take forward proposals to extend the ability to train and gain prescribing rights to further HCPC professions. Nicole Casey represents the HCPC on this group.
- Radiographers are able to train to become supplementary prescribers. Physiotherapists and podiatrists are able to train to become supplementary and independent prescribers. Paramedics and podiatrists (with annotations of the Register), are able to access medicines exemptions which specify medicines they are able to administer and/or sell/supply on their own initiative.
- The Department is proposing to legislate to allow paramedics and radiographers to become independent prescribers; dietitians to become supplementary prescribers; and for orthoptists to access an exemption list of medicines for eye conditions.
- An update about this area describing the preparatory work necessary (which includes development of standards and amendments to systems) will be considered by the Education and Training Committee at its meeting in March 2015.

### **Professional indemnity**

- The changes to the Rules to implement the professional indemnity requirement were agreed by the Council at its meeting in December 2014.
- The Rules will be laid in Westminster and in the Scottish parliament. They will become effective from 1 April 2015.
- From that date, registrants renewing their registration (not social workers in England to whom the requirement does not apply) will complete a declaration to confirm that they meet the requirement. Applicants for registration (not social workers) will also complete a declaration.

### **PSA performance review**

- The PSA have now considered the HCPC's evidence submission. The Executive has responded to a series of follow-up questions. A meeting was scheduled to be held with the PSA as part of the process on 9 February 2015.

## **Regulation of public health specialists from non-medical backgrounds**

- The Department of Health consultation on proposals for the regulation of public health specialists from non-medical backgrounds closed on 9 October 2015. At the time of writing, we were awaiting the publication of the Government's response to the consultation including whether it intends to proceed with regulation of this group by the HCPC.
- If legislation was to be published and approved for statutory regulation we would currently anticipate opening the Register to this group in April 2016.
- A major project to deliver the work necessary to open the Register has recently been agreed by the Executive Management Team (subject of course to a final ministerial decision about regulation of this group).

## **Research**

The following provides a summary of all the on-going research activities managed by the Department.

- Qa research are undertaking the CPD perceptions and experiences study. As part of this, a link to an online survey was emailed to around 14,000 registrants in January 2015. The survey seeks the views of registrants about the HCPC's approach, including asking registrants who have been audited about their experiences. The survey runs to the end of February 2015.
- Kingston University / St George's University of London have been recently commissioned to undertake the preparation for practice research as part of the review of the standards of education and training. The aim of the research is to assess the effectiveness of the existing standards of education and training in ensuring that registrants are fit to practise at entry to the Register and identifying any improvements to the standards (if any). The research will include a range of methodologies including a literature review; survey; interviews; and focus groups.
- Keele University are undertaking research looking at interprofessional education in approved programmes as part of the review of the standards of education and training. A literature review is underway. The next stage of the research is a survey of programme leaders of approved programmes.
- A research team from King's College London are undertaking a literature review looking at the links between convictions and cautions for alcohol related offences, alcohol dependency and fitness to practise / work. The outcomes will inform our approach to the issue of health assessments where registrants are convicted of these offences. The literature review is underway and this work is on course for completion by May 2015.

## **Review of the standards of conduct, performance and ethics (SCPE)**

- The last meeting of the Professional Liaison Group (PLG) took place in December 2014.
- The Education and Training Committee and the Council will be asked to agree to consult on draft revised standards at their meetings in March 2015.
- We are working with Connect, a communication disability charity, to produce an easy read version of the consultation document and draft standards for consultation. They will also produce an easy read version of the standards for publication following the consultation.
- The standards will look significantly different from the current version, with ten overarching standards rather than 14. The 'block paragraphs' have been broken down into numbered statements. There are new standards about reporting and escalating concerns and being open when things go wrong ('candour').
- Events with service users and carers are being planned to take place in the four countries during the consultation period (1 April to 26 June 2015).

## **Work on other standards and guidance**

- The outcomes of the consultation on revised standards of proficiency for practitioner psychologists are due to be considered by the Education and Training Committee and the Council at their meetings in March 2015.
- The consultation on standards for podiatric surgery closed on 16 January 2015. We currently aim to bring the results to the meetings of the Education and Training Committee and the Council in March 2015.
- The consultation on revised guidance for disabled people wanting to train to become health and care professionals closed on 16 January 2015. We expect that the results of the consultation and revised guidance will be brought to the June and July meetings of the Education and Training Committee and the Council. We will be working with the Communications Department to develop a plan for launching the new guidance, including materials for the website.
- A work plan is being developed for the review of the standards of proficiency for social workers in England and is due to be considered by the Education and Training Committee at its meeting in March 2015.
- An update about the review of the standards of education and training will be provided to the Education and Training Committee at its meeting in March 2015. Please see section on research in this report.