

Council, 6 July 2017

Actions list

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

Below is the actions list as agreed at the public meeting of the Council held on 24 and 25 May 2017 and 23 March 2017.

	Action point (and location in minutes)	Action for	Comment
Wednesday 24 May 2017			
1.	<p>Item 8.17/69 Chief Executive's report</p> <p>The Council noted that the Chief Executive would meet with the other Care Councils in July 2017 to discuss the future of the MOU. An update about the outcome of these discussions will be provided to Council. (8.6)</p>	Chief Executive	Meeting with Care Councils scheduled for 13 July 2017.
2.	<p>Item 8.17/69 Chief Executive's report</p> <p>The Council discussed progress on section 60 order changes. It was noted that the PSA is currently engaging with the regulators on requirements for a section 60 order. The Council agreed that it would consider the HCPC's section 60 order priorities at a future meeting. (8.8)</p>	Executive	On today's agenda.
3.	<p>Item 9.17/70 New Regulatory body for social work</p> <p>The Council agreed it should form a collective view of its preference for transfer arrangements. (9.3)</p>	Executive	On today's agenda.
4.	<p>Item 9.17/70 New Regulatory body for social workers in England</p> <p>The Council agreed that the HCPC would write to the Secretary of State for Health and the Minister for Regulation when these posts were appointed following the election. The letters would seek clarification of the government's plans and emphasise the difficulty arising for the HCPC from the government's decision on social worker regulation. (9.5)</p>	Chief Executive	Verbal update to be provided – CEO report.
5.	<p>Item 12.i.17/75 Annual report 2016-2017</p> <p>The Council noted that the Chair of the Council signs the annual report on behalf of the Council. The Council agreed that the reason for this should be more explicit and that clarity should be sought from the NAO. (12.i.3)</p>	Executive	Update provided in annual report and accounts item.

Thursday 25 May 2017			
6.	Item 5.17/88 Review of appointment of Registrant and Medical Assessors policies The Council requested clarity on why visitor partners are not eligible to act as registrant or medical assessors. (5.4)	Executive	* set out at end of paper
7.	Item 11.17/94 IT report The Council discussed the implications of machine learning and its possible applications for the HCPC. The Council noted that a current file quarantine system is being trialled with certain departments and this uses a form of machine learning. The Council agreed to further discuss the potential applications of machine learning at a future meeting. (11.5)	Council	Council to consider how it wishes to explore these topics further
8.	Item 11.17/94 IT report The Council discussed the implications of technology on registrants' working environments. It was agreed that the potential regulatory implications of international online service delivery should be explored. (11.6)	Council	Council to consider how it wishes to explore these topics further
Thursday 23 March 2017			
6.	Item 4.17/46 Directorate work plans The Council noted that each work plan included the relevant sections of the risk register for the directorate as an appendix. The Council discussed how it defines and monitors key strategic priorities and risks. It was agreed that this would be considered for the agenda of the annual council strategic away day. (4.3)	Executive	To be considered at the annual strategic away day
7.	Item 4.17/46 Directorate work plans The Council discussed the Communications workplan in relation to the directorate's planned activity in preparation for the social worker regulation transfer. It was noted that key corporate messages were defined in the Communications Strategy and that a Council development session would take place in 2017 focusing on stakeholder engagement. (4.4)	Executive	To be scheduled

Decision

The Council is requested to note the actions. No decision is required.

Background information

Public Minutes of the Council meeting held on 24 and 25 May 2017 and 23 March 2017.

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

None

Appendices

None

Date of paper

23 June 2017

* Visitor partners are not eligible to act as registrant/medical assessors as this is prohibited by articles 35(4)(c) and 36(4) (c) of the Order.

The reason for this is that Registrant assessors perform a function similar to expert witnesses and their paramount duty is owed to the tribunal rather than to either party.

Given that the law in relation to bias is based upon the appearance of bias rather than actual bias, Article 36 of the Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001 prohibits certain categories of individuals who may be regarded as 'too close' to the HCPC from acting as registrant assessors.

The list includes Council and committee members (the latter would encompass FTP panellists), HCPC employees and those who perform statutory roles on behalf of the HCPC and which are identified elsewhere in the Order. As Visitors are appointed under Article 16 of the Order, they appear as one of the prohibited categories.