

## **Chief Executive's report – 24 May 2017**

### **1. Meetings attended**

- A list of the meetings the Chief Executive has attended since the last Council meeting is attached.
- At previous meetings, the Council has requested information about the regular meetings which take place with the other regulators of health and care professionals. This is also appended.

### **2. External policy matters**

#### **General election**

- A general election will take place on 8 June 2017. Parliament has been dissolved and pre-election purdah has now set in.
- The first Queen's speech of the next parliament is scheduled to take place on 19 June 2017.
- Given the election, summer recess, and party conference season, we might anticipate that it will take some time post-election before the normal business of Government is fully up and running.
- At the time of writing, party manifestos for the upcoming election had yet to be published. We will review these once published for any reference to regulation reform.

#### **Regulation of physician associates**

- The Chair and Chief Executive assisted in facilitating meetings on 24 April 2017 for colleagues in the four country administrations to learn more about how physician associates are trained and practice. Attendees from the administrations in Scotland, Wales and the UK were able to attend and found out more about the training being delivered at Sheffield Hallam University.

#### **Regulation of social workers in England**

- The Children and Social Work Bill has now received Royal assent and has become the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- The Act allows the Secretary of State, by regulations, to determine the detail of how Social Work England, once established, will regulate social workers in England. The Secretary of State is required to consult on the regulations

which then have to be passed via the affirmative resolution procedure. This means that the formal approval of both Houses of Parliament is required.

### **Memorandum of understanding with the Care Councils**

- At the last meeting, the Council was advised of the three Care Councils' decisions not to register graduates from the Frontline programme without having to satisfy additional requirements.
- The SSSC has written to explain the process it followed in determining not to register Frontline graduates without additional requirements. This describes a process of using assessors to scrutinise programme documentation against the detailed requirements for social work training in Scotland. These requirements are more prescriptive, setting input based requirements, in contrast to HCPC's standards of proficiency and standards of education and training. The conclusion was that the Frontline programme provided insufficient training in work with adults and insufficient hours of structured academic training, amongst other issues.
- In response to a letter seeking clarity on the status of the existing memorandum of understanding, the Care Councils recently wrote to me. They argue that they have abided by the spirit of the MOU, as frontline graduates are eligible to be registered, subject to meeting additional requirements. The MOU has not been reviewed since 2013. The Care Councils suggest that an MOU 'may no longer be required as there are sufficient information sharing arrangements in place'. They suggest instead developing terms of reference for the regular now five country meetings which take place between the regulators (the four UK regulators, plus CORU, the regulator in the Republic of Ireland). I will update the Council in the future about the outcome of these discussions.

### **3. Financial and operational update**

- PSA employees have been onsite between late March and early May 2017 auditing fitness to practise cases as part of the 2016-17 performance review. We have also responded to additional questions about registration appeals and registration processing times. Timescales for next steps are unclear at this stage, but we can expect to be in receipt of a draft report for comment from the PSA in the near future.
- The Health and Care Professions Tribunal Service (HCPTS) is now fully operational.
- Building work on 186 Kennington Park Road is underway.

## Appendix: Regular inter-regulatory meetings attended by the Executive

Directorate	Group
Chief Executive	<p>Chief Executive's steering group</p> <p>Chief Executive's Legislation Group</p> <p>Five Country Chief Executive and Directors Group (social workers)*</p> <p>Health and Social Care Regulators forum</p> <p>Scottish Regulatory Forum</p> <p>Wales Concordat</p>
Education	Regulators Education Directors Group
Finance	<p>Regulators Finance Directors Group</p> <p>Regulators Directors of Resources Group</p>
Fitness to Practise	<p>Inter-regulatory group on Adjudications</p> <p>Five Country FTP managers*</p> <p>Inter-regulatory group of FTP Directors</p>
Human Resources	Regulators Directors/Heads of HR Group
Information Technology	Inter-regulatory Heads of IT group
Operations	Trainer's networking meeting (registrations)
Policy and Standards	<p>Regulators equality and diversity group</p> <p>Inter-regulatory group on standards</p> <p>Inter-regulatory group on continuing fitness to practise</p>

	Inter-regulatory group on performance (PSA performance review)
	Inter-regulatory group on research
Secretariat	Inter-regulatory group customer service network
	Inter-regulatory group on Information security and governance
	Inter-regulatory group on governance

\*\*Five country' regulator meetings referred to above refer to the HCPC and the Care Council for Wales (CCW); CORU (regulator of social workers in the Republic of Ireland); Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC); and Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC).

**Chief Executive – Marc Seale**

**Meetings up to May 2017**

Chief Executives Legislation Group	30 Mar
Advancing Healthcare Awards	31 Mar
Visit to NHS Education for Scotland	19 April
Meeting with the Royal College of Occupational Therapists	20 April
Department of Health visit to Sheffield Hallam University	24 April
Chief Executives Legislation Group (CELG)	27 April
Association for Clinical Biochemistry & Laboratory Medicine Reception in Leeds	4 May
Meet the HCPC event in Taunton	10 May
Health and Social Care Regulators Forum	11 May
Department of Health meeting	12 May

**Scheduled Meetings**

Single Market Forum Workshop (Brussels)	16 May
Meeting with Patricia Livsey (Lead of Regulation at Council of Deans)	15 May
Chief Executives Steering Group (CESG)	17 May