

Health Professions Council
Education and Training committee 28th March 2007
Policy & Standards workplan and Education and Training committee strategy update

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

In April 2006, the Education and Training committee held a strategy meeting at which the key issues of the committee were determined. The Policy & Standards department workplan was subsequently amended, to include and take account of the issues that the committee had identified, where these were not already separately identified and part of ongoing projects.

The attached paper provides an update for the committee on the progress against the strategy.

Decision

The Committee is invited to discuss the attached document.

Background information

None

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

None

Background papers

None

Appendices

None

Date of paper

16th March 2006

**Education & Training Committee
Strategy Meeting - April 2006**

In order to progress the key topics identified at the meeting it was agreed:

- ◆ to ask the Executive to prepare a briefing
 - ◆ to work towards an ETC position
- OR
- ◆ to review after the publication of the review of non-medical regulation

Prepare briefing papers on:	ACTION TAKEN (eg when briefing paper was presented, or is planned)
1. Regulation of non-professional healthcare workers	◆ A briefing paper on this topic was considered by the committee at its meeting in September 2006
2. Registration of students	◆ A briefing paper was considered by the committee at its meeting in June 2006
3. European/International impact on HPC's work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Policy & Standards continuing to work towards meeting the recommendations of the Healthcare Professionals Crossing Borders consensus conference, October 2005. This includes participating in follow-up meetings, and working groups on issues such as sharing information. ◆ The introduction of the Professional Qualifications Directive has formed part of the project planning process for the financial year 2007- 2008, with appropriate legal advice sought, and registration staff and Project Manager involved. ◆ HPC is now awaiting the legislation that will translate this directive into UK law. ◆ A paper to note around this directive is on the agenda of this meeting.
4. Support mechanisms within HPC for regulated professions and newly regulated professions	◆ No further professions have come onto the HPC Register because of the publication of the DH consultation, followed by the White Paper. Once the implementation plan has been published, this may be something that the ETC wishes to review when further professions join the Register.
Work towards establishing a position paper	ACTION TAKEN (eg: position paper considered, or details of further work undertaken)
1. Working with Government Departments	◆ Paper on working with the four home countries considered by the Council in December 2006.

2. Partnership Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Representatives from Skills for Health have been invited to the Education and Training committee in May 2007 to give a presentation on their work.
3. Regulation of non-professional healthcare workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Publication of White paper recommends awaiting the review of the Scottish pilot project into employer-lead regulation. ◆ The Council's response to the DH consultation 'the regulation of the non-medical healthcare professions' welcomes this, but re-stated the Council's belief that some form of statutory regulation is necessary for these groups.
4. Registration of students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Council's response to the DH consultation 'the regulation of the non-medical healthcare professions' said that HPC felt that the registration of students would be a dis-proportionate reaction to the risk posed to public safety. ◆ CHRE is running a project on the registration of students, which the Policy & Standards department have been feeding into. ◆ The White Paper asks regulators to report back to the Department of Health with a recommendation on the registration of students.
Build on and strengthen current work	ACTION TAKEN
1. Reviewing and improving relationships with stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Workshops for HEI on Programme Approvals and Monitoring Procedures ◆ Meetings with key contacts in home countries, as detailed in paper to Council, December 2006 ◆ Communications strategy, including appointment of Public Affairs Manager. ◆ Involvement with Council of Deans disability working group ◆ Attendance at cross-regulatory education forum ◆ Standing invitation for Policy Officer to attend Allied Health Professions Federation's Education leads meeting
2. HPC support for currently regulated and newly regulated professions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ As above.

Other Issues	The committee agreed to revisit these issues following publication of ‘White Paper’. However, for certain issues where other progress has been made, the following are included for the Committee’s information:
1. Revalidation of registrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Council’s response to the DH consultation went into some detail on the questions that the Council has concerning revalidation. The Council is now awaiting the publication of the implementation plan.
2. Patient Public Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Communications department is planning an audit of HPC’s PPI activity. This audit will contain recommendations for future areas of work.
3. Regulating CAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The White Paper, ‘Trust assurance and safety’ refers to complementary and alternative medicine, and particularly the Steering Group, which is looking at the statutory regulation of acupuncture, herbal medicine, and traditional Chinese medicine. ◆ Members of the Executive have presented at this Steering Group, and the Director of Policy & Standards was asked to be a member of the group in late 2006.
4. Restructuring of ETC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ‘Trust assurance and safety’ makes recommendations around the future structure of Councils. ETC may now wish to revisit the issue of the future structure of ETC.
5. Reviewing relationships with Partners (particularly the use of lay Partners)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Positive feedback has been received concerning the Partners conference, in November 2006. ◆ This may be an issue which the ETC now wishes to reconsider.
6. Post-registration qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Council’s response to the DH consultation set out some possible criteria which could be used to determine when it might be appropriate to mark the Register with post-registration qualifications. ◆ A paper concerning a review of how the Council approves programmes for the post-registration qualifications it currently marks on the Register, is the subject of a paper to this committee.

Standards Review	ACTION TAKEN
1. On-going work in reviewing Standards	The Education and Training Committee agreed a standards workplan in December 2006. This was subsequently agreed by the Council. The workplan sets out the context for the Council's various sets of standards, as well as detailing the aims in setting the standards, defining the process of standards review, and setting out a timetable for further standards reviews.