Education and Training Committee 27 September 2007

Skills for Health and HPC summary

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction
At its meeting on 12th June 2007, the Education and Training invited employees from Skills for Health to present on their organisation and its work. John Ennis, Associate Director, Quality Assurance and Helen Fields, Associate Director of Policy & Strategy attended and gave a presentation to the Committee.

Further to this, the Committee felt it would be helpful if they were provided with an overview of recent and ongoing contact between Skills for Health and the Health Professions Council.

The attached appendix details the ways in which HPC is involved with Skills for Health, summarising briefly the name of the Council member or department, the project or group within Skills for Health, dates where applicable, and a summary of the work being undertaken.

Decision
This paper is for information only. No decision is required.

Background information
The White Paper, 'Trust Assurance and Safety, the Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century' makes particular mention of sector skills councils,
'The Government therefore agrees … that the professional regulatory bodies should continue to be responsible for the assurance of educational standards in those professions. In doing so, the Government expects that the professional regulators will work collaboratively with the Sector Skills Council for Health.'

Resource implications
None

Financial implications
None

Appendices
Summary of HPC and Skills for Health activity / meetings / contact attached.

Date of paper
14th September 2007

HPC and Skills for Health overview

HPC Council member / department	Summary	Date / ongoing	Further information
Diane Waller	SfH project to establish competencies for psychotherapy and counselling	Meetings in May and October 2006. Ongoing work by email.	Project currently at stage where consultants have put together a consultation document. A reference group is being established, to include 5 identified areas of psychotherapy and counselling. This group is also linking with the Department of Health regulation of psychotherapy working group (which DW also attends).
Douglas Proctor	Attended two SfH events: Healthcare Scientists Workshop Healthcare Scientists Conference	19/10/2006 2/3/2007	These were not attended officially as an HPC Council member, but DP declared an HPC interest.
Alan Mount	Allied Health Professions Careers Framework Strategy Group	18/10/2005 26/4/2006 17/11/2006 31/1/2007	The aim of this project is to develop a competence-based career framework.

Eileen Thornton	Skills for Health Council		This has now been passed to Rachel Tripp as it was felt more appropriate to have Executive rather than Council input into this group.
Jeff Lucas	Health Care Science Career Board		Has been commissioned by DH to work with the Health Care Science Career Board and develop guidance for Universities developing degree programmes for healthcare scientists: 54 professional groups within physical sciences, life sciences and physiological sciences. Jeff is an independent member of the Health Care Science Career Board, and Marc Seale also sits on this group as an HPC representative.

Policy and Standards	Partners' Forum	The Partners' Forum meets quarterly.	This group exists to draw together groups with a role in quality assuring healthcare education, to share information and work where appropriate. Rachel Tripp attends.
	Web-based tool steering group	The web-based tool steering group's current status is uncertain.	As part of the work of the Partners' Forum, the suggestion of a web-based tool for storing information was discussed. A group was established to look into this, and although we didn't feel we could formally participate, after being asked, we sent along Sam Mars to observe. (discussion at the last Partners' Forum suggested that this piece of work may be larger and more complex than first anticipated, and therefore less likely to go ahead.)
	Quality Assurance Stakeholder Development Group (QASDeG)		The role of the QAsDEG is to feed into the Partners' Forum, and it was therefore felt un-necessary to attend both, given the time commitments involved.

| Policy & Standards (continued) | Jane Fox, Quality Assurance Team | | Update meetings were previously held between Rachel Tripp and Jane Fox, normally after each ETC. However, this has been revised so that meetings will only take place when there is a specific topic requiring discussion. |
| | Skills for Health Council | | (See above) This has been passed to Rachel Tripp, and the next meeting of this group is due to take place in November. |

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