

**Agenda Item 7**

**Enclosure 3**

**Health and Care Professions Council  
06 December 2018**

**Chair's report**

**For discussion**

**From Stephen Cohen, Deputy Chair of the  
HCPC**

Council, 6 December 2018

## Chair's report to Council

This paper provides Council with a summary of the activities that the Deputy Chair has undertaken since the last Council meeting. Meetings attended since the last report was considered by Council are all listed within the appendix.

### **External engagement**

Over the last three months I have continued my programme of meeting external stakeholders (as set out in the appendix). Most of these were in pursuit of supporting engagement regarding our Fees Consultation, principally with professional bodies. The proposed investment plans attracted a good deal of support and understanding, as indeed have the overwhelming number of individual consultation responses received so far.

Not surprisingly there has been concern about the size of the fee rise. But we have been at pains to point out that, allowing for inflation it is not unreasonable; that unfortunately we are unable to make an automatic small RPI (-) increase every year but must consult and seek approval each time; and that we must invest more in FTP. We explained that we wish it were otherwise, but the incoming numbers have been rising sharply and unpredictably; everyone wants, and everyone will benefit from, faster handling of FTP; and unless and until we get legislative change the process will often remain lengthy and costly.

The lessons learnt so far are that if we had the power to make small annual increases much of the heat around this issue would diffuse and that we should perhaps have explained specifically how we invested the revenues arising from the previous fee increase in this current document.

Our contacts regarding the SWE transfer remain essential. And we hope to hear more clearly in early December about SWE's proposed "go live" date. Our message that, while we can be flexible about this date, it is crucial to have plenty of advance notice about a final decision for a firm, agreed date, has, we believe, been clearly received.

### **Regulatory landscape**

We still await a decision on the regulation of Physicians Associates but feel that we have now said our piece. No news yet regarding Sonographers.

The DHSC planned legislative reforms through Section 60 orders are becoming clearer and the current expectation is that these may now come in Q4 2019. Our

assumption is that the intention is to homogenise regulators' legislation along the lines of something like that granted to SWE. This would allow HCPC and other regulators greater flexibility and more freedom to make their own rules. Clearly this will have potentially big implications for us in due course but also will require extensive engagement with DHSC over the next 9-12 months as the plans begin to crystallise.

The key messages from external stakeholder engagement regarding regulation continue to be the need for the regulators to cooperate and share information effectively as well as to engage more with the prevention agenda. The new PSA standard regarding EDI ties in to our strategic intent to seek to be able to gather more data and aim to be a smarter data-driven regulator.

### **Executive engagement**

I have continued to spend time engaging with Executives. One issue I feel strongly we need as an organisation to explore is how to build capability. This is captured in our Strategic Priority 3 "**Ensure the organisation is fit for the future and able to anticipate and adapt to changes in the external environment.**"

In order to be able to respond effectively to the many changes we anticipate in the external environment and implement material improvements in the way we operate, we need to become better still at continuous change, and at being able to run more projects simultaneously. We need to have breadth and depth of resource as well as the organisational culture that enables to learn and absorb best practice and implement more change, faster and more effectively. This kind of transformation will take careful thought and strong leadership and will take time.

## Deputy Chair – Stephen Cohen

1. Professional Standards Authority, Harry Cayton Chief Executive, London 19 September
2. Social Work England, Colum Conway, Chief Executive, Lord Patel, Chair. Department of Health, Gavin Lerner, Director of Workforce, Claire Armstrong, Deputy Director, Professional Regulation Branch, Duncan Hall, Section Head: Priority Projects. Department for Education, Samantha Olsen, Deputy Director, Jonathan Bacon, Assistant Director Social Work England Implementation Project. Professional Standards Authority, Harry Cayton Chief Executive, George Jenkins, Chair, London 20 September
3. General Chiropractic Council, Mary Chapmanm Chair, HCPC 9 October
1. Unite the Union, Jane Beach, Professional Officer of Regulation, Colenzo Jarrett-Thorpe, National Officer, HCPC 15 October
2. General Pharmaceutical Council, Nigel Clarke, Chair, London 17 October
3. General Optical Council, Gareth Hadley, Chair, HCPC 17 October
4. House of Lords, Lord Pate 29 October
5. Society of Radiographers, Sue Webb, President of UK Council and Richard Evans, Chief Executive, HCPC 31 October
6. Institute of Biomedical Science, Jill Rodney, Chief Executive and Alison Geddis Chair, HCPC 31 October

7. British and Irish Orthoptic Society, Veronica Greenwood, Chair and Julie Cartledge, Vice Chair, HCPC 31 October
8. Professional Regulation: Working within Regulation of the Wider Team, Edinburgh 5 November
9. Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, Karen Middleton, Chief Executive and Alex Mackenzie, Chair, HCPC 21 November
10. Royal College of Occupational Therapy, Julia Scott, Chief Executive and Patricia McClure, Chair, HCPC 27 November
11. Welsh Government, Ruth Crowder, Chief Therapy (Allied Health Professions) Advisor and John Brice Healthcare Technology Innovation & Strategy Division, Cardiff 3 December