

SHADOW HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL

Chief Executive &
Registrar Designate
Marc Seale

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NOTES of the second meeting of the Shadow Health Working Party held at 11.00am on Friday 1 March 2002 at the offices of the Society of Chiropractors & Podiatrists, 1 Fellmongers Path, Tower Bridge Road, London SE1 3LY.

Present: Mr C Lea (*Acting Chairman*)
Professor J Lilleyman
Mrs C McGartland
Ms J Manning
Dr J Old
Professor D E Waller

In attendance: Mr M J Seale (Chief Executive & Registrar Designate SHPC)
Mr G L Milch (Secretary)

Item 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Chairman
In the absence of the Chairman, it was agreed that Mr Lea be appointed Acting Chairman for the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies
Received from Professor Brook, Miss Crawford, Ms Foster and Professor Hazell.

Item 2. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

With an amendment to note 3.5 to read '*...a registrant with mental health problems...*', the notes of the meeting held on 4 December 2001 were confirmed as a true record.

Item 3. MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1 Meeting Status
It was reported that, following legal advice, it would not be possible for the time being for the people gathered to describe themselves as the (Shadow) Health Committee. This could not be done until the completion of the public consultation exercise and formal approval from the Privy Council. Any further

- meeting would have to be called the Health Working Party.
- 3.2 Screeners/Mediation
The meeting noted that whilst screeners and a mediation procedure were referred to in the Order in Council and would appear in the consultation document, it was considered that their use would depend on demand. However, it was agreed that the possibility of using them should be retained as an option.
- 3.3 Good Health
It was agreed that the initial interpretation of what constituted good health would be determined by others – the HPC, screeners, the Investigation Committee and, in particular, the Conduct & Competence Committee. There was discussion about which Practice Committee would deal with a registrant who developed a stress-related illness after complainant had submitted allegations.
- 3.4 Communications Strategy
It was reported that the HPC would develop a communications strategy, which would cover the range of brochures, and publications that would be required including ones in Welsh. The Department of Health(DH) was being approached to offer grants/loans to cover the initial work.
- 3.5 Standing Orders
- 3.5.1 It was reported that the HPC might expect all Practice Committees to have similar meeting procedures and that it might be appropriate for the Chairmen of the Practice Committees to meet.
- 3.5.2 It was understood that the HPC's draft Standing Orders would be an agendas item at its first formal meeting on 2 April 2002. These could provide an example for the Practice Committees.
- 3.6 Panels
There was discussion about the interpretation of Paragraph 19(6)(d) and (f) concerning panel membership. It was agreed that legal advice was required.

Item 4.STANDING ORDERS

The meeting noted that each Practice Committee set up under the Order in Council would not have separate Standing Orders but just its Rules.

Item 5.DRAFT RULES

- 5.1 The meeting considered draft Rules for submission to the first meeting of the Health Professions Council.
- 5.2 Several changes were made to the draft Rules for the sake of clarification.
- 5.3 There were concerns over the issue of confidentiality if the Committee or Panel were to be able to examine a respondent's patient/client records – how much would be made public – and whether the HPC should issue guidance.

- 5.4 There was discussion about possible instances of the Committee or a Panel concluding that a respondent was incompetent but such incompetence was not due to poor health.
- 5.5 The meeting discussed the possibility of retaining an Occupational Health specialist.
- 5.6 The meeting received the Chief Executive & Registrar Designate's reference directory relating to the Health Committee and its procedures. This was agreed to be helpful.
- 5.7 The meeting received the most recent draft of the Council Processes document and noted the procedures relating to the Health Committee.

Item 6.ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

Item 7.DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that it was not practicable to set a date for the next meeting as the HPC would determine the possibly revised membership of the Health Working Group at its meeting on 2 April 2002.