

THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL

NOTES of a meeting of the Health Implementation Working Group held at 10.30am on Friday 27 September 2002 in the Council Chamber, Park House, 184 Kennington Park Road, London SE11 4BU.

Present: Miss M Crawford (Chairman)
Miss A Foster
Professor Sir J Lilleyman
Mrs J Stark

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

Item 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Dr A van der Gaag, Professor A Hazell, Mrs C McGartland, Dr J Old and Professor D E Waller.

Item 2. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The notes of the meeting held on 14 May 2002 were confirmed as a true record.

Item 3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Health Rules

The meeting received the revised draft Health Rules. It was agreed that it would be helpful to invite Mr Bracken (who had redrafted the Rules) to attend a meeting to discuss them.

3.2 Consultation Process

It was reported that no specific comment about the Health Committee and its proposed procedures had been received but there was general support. At the consultation meetings some appeared to have confused disability issues with ill-health. There might be more to be received from professional bodies.

3.3 Panels

There was discussion about the composition of panels and the balance between lay and registrant members. It was agreed that all meetings should be in public unless it was deemed to be contrary to the interests of the parties involved. Advice had been received that the panel meetings had to be called hearings as the Order used that description. Panel members would have to have the appropriate background and might need specific training in view of the formal procedures that would need to be employed. It was not known how many

panels would need to be arranged but the number might increase rapidly once the procedures were in place and their existence became known.

Item 4.HEALTH BROCHURE 1

It was agreed that the draft brochure for the public was not suitable for distribution and would need to be redrafted to reflect the OiC

Item 5.HEALTH BROCHURE 2

- 5.1 It was agreed that the draft brochure for registrants was not suitable for distribution and would need to be redrafted to reflect the OiC.
- 5.2 It was agreed to consider a hypothetical case study to see how matters might be handled step by step from the start and to differentiate the roles of the Health Committee and a panel. The process was considered to be
 - a. written allegations are received
 - b. a check is made to see if the person concerned is a registrant
 - c. the allegations are referred to screeners
 - d. the screeners' report to the Investigating Committee or
 - e. the report goes directly to either the Conduct & Competence Committee or Health Committee
 - f. the matter may go to mediation
 - g. a panel is chosen from a pool of available persons
 - h. the panel receive all the documentation and determine if a preliminary meeting needs to be held
 - i. the hearing is held
 - j. the panel decides whether or not the respondent is ill as alleged
 - k. the panel makes an appropriate order
 - l. the respondent may wish to appeal to the High Court
 - m. the Committee monitors progress of those found to be ill.
- 5.3 The Committee would have to arrange meetings of panel chairmen to ensure consistency. It was agreed that, for the first year at least, Committee members should each chair a panel to gain suitable experience.
- 5.4 It was felt that Occupational Health Physicians would be the branch of medicine that the Healtyh Committee would have the greatest need for in terms of expert input.

Item 6.JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR PARTNERS

It was noted that the Working Party would be asked at a future meeting to consider job descriptions for the various partners that would be required for it to carry out its statutory duties.

Item 7.ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

Item 8.DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to hold the next meeting in December.