

Council – 10 December 2008

## Draft Discussion Paper on Extending Professional Regulation

### Executive summary and recommendations

#### **Introduction**

The Discussion Paper outlines the position of the Health Professions Council on:

- The existing process to statutory regulate new professions
- Extending regulation to Occupational Groups within the healthcare delivery system who are not professionals

The paper outlines the position of the Council on these topics and in particular identifies five key themes. They are as follows:

- I. Article 3 (17) of the Health Professions Order 2001 is used by the Health Professions Council to recommend to the Secretary of State that Aspirant Groups could be statutory regulated is fit for purpose.**
- II. The criteria, guidance and process used by the HPC to formulate their recommendations to the Secretary of State on the possible professional statutory regulation of Aspirant Groups should continue to be revised and adapted in the light of experience.**
- III. Occupational Groups could be regulated using similar processes to those used for the statutory regulation of professionals when education and training programmes can be approved by the regulator.**
- IV. The statutory regulation of Occupational Groups by licensing could be considered where entry to the register is set by examination.**
- V. The ability of Registrants to extend their scope of practise without formally demonstrating to the regulator their competence by way of approved education and training programmes could be limited at the point that risk to patients is unacceptable.**

#### **Decision**

- 1 The Council is requested to approve the Discussion Paper

**Background information**

None

**Resource implications**

Not assessed

**Financial implications**

Not quantified

**Appendices**

None

**Date of paper**

30 November 2008