

Council, 14 May 2014

Policy and Standards report

Executive summary and recommendations

**Introduction**

The report provides an update about the activities of the Policy and Standards Department.

**Decision**

The Council is requested to discuss the report.

**Background information**

None

**Resource implications**

None

**Financial implications**

None

**Appendices**

None

**Date of paper**

30 April 2014

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## **Policy and Standards Department – Council meeting, 14 May 2014**

The following provides an update about the work of the Department.

### **Europe – Professional Qualifications Directive**

- The Executive has continued to meet with the other regulators and to respond to requests for information from the Department of Health (DH) and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) as part of the process which will transpose the revised Professional Qualifications Directive into UK law.
- An update paper is being prepared for the Education and Training Committee's meeting in June 2014.

### **Law Commission**

- The Law Commissions' proposals and draft legislation have now been published.
- The Department has continued to work with the Fitness to Practise Department – including attending meetings and responding to requests for information from the Department of Health (DH).

### **'Non-medical' Public health specialists**

- In January 2012, the Government announced that in the future the HCPC would become responsible for regulating public health specialists from non-medical backgrounds. This group numbers around 500 individuals who are currently voluntary registered with the UK Public Health Register (UKPHR).
- We understand that the DH (public health team) intends to provide for the regulation of this group as part of the primary legislation arising from the Law Commissions' review of the regulatory bodies' legislation. If this is not possible, or if this legislation is delayed, the DH has indicated that it will instead progress a Section 60 Order under the Health Act 1999.
- As a result, the timetable for the regulation of this group is unclear at this stage. The Executive has informed the DH that substantive work will not commence on this project until legislation has been published.

### **Podiatric surgery**

- In 2012, the Council agreed to annotate (mark) the Register entries of podiatrists who hold qualifications in podiatric surgery. Podiatric surgery is the surgical management of the foot and is significantly beyond the scope of practice of a podiatrist at entry to the Register.

- The Executive has been considering how best to manage the annotation, including the annotation of existing practitioners. We also need to consult on the standards to support the annotation. The Education and Training Committee is due to consider a paper about progressing this project at its meeting in June 2014.

### **Professional indemnity**

- The legislation necessary to introduce the requirement for registrants (not social workers in England) to have professional indemnity as a condition of registration has still yet to be published.
- The DH has indicated that this will be published in 'spring 2014', and effective from July 2014.

### **Registration fees**

- The increases to the HCPC's fees came into force on 1 April 2014.

### **Research**

The following pieces of research have recently been completed; are on-going; or are planned to be commissioned.

#### Continuing fitness to practise

- Durham University is entering the final year of their study looking at measuring professionalism. The study involves students on two programmes in the paramedic profession. A progress report from the University will be considered by the Council at a future meeting.
- The Education and Training Committee is due to consider a draft research brief for research looking at the views and experiences of stakeholders on the CPD standards and audit process at its meeting in June 2014.

#### Inter-professional education

- This research would look at the extent of inter-professional education in HCPC approved programmes, as part of the forthcoming review of the standards of education and training. The Education and Training Committee is due to consider a draft research brief at its meeting in June 2014.

#### A disabled person's guide to becoming a health professional

- Coventry University have completed research which included focus groups and interviews with disabled students, admissions tutors, educators, practice

placement educators and staff working in disabled students' support services, as part of reviewing the now out-of-date existing guidance for disabled people wanting to train in one of the professions we regulate.

- The Education and Training Committee is due to consider the outcomes of this research at its meeting in June 2014. The Executive is using this research to redraft the guidance for public consultation.

### **Standards of proficiency review**

- The analysis of responses to the consultations on the standards for paramedics and for hearing aid dispensers are due to be considered by the Education and Training Committee and the Council at their meetings in June and July 2014.
- Draft standards for consultation for practitioner psychologists are due to be considered by the Education and Training Committee and the Council at their meetings in June and July 2014.
- The consultations on draft standards for biomedical scientists and clinical scientists run until 20 June 2014.