

**UNCONFIRMED**

**The Health Professions Council**

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MINUTES of the fifth meeting of the Professional Liaison Group on Continuing Fitness to Practice held on **Thursday 4 September 2008** at Park House, 184 Kennington Park Road, London SE11 4BU.

**Present:**

Dr Anna Van Der Gaag, HPC President (Chair)  
Mrs Mary Clark-Glass, HPC Council member  
Mrs Ruth Crowder of the Allied Health Professionals Federation  
Mr Vince Cullen, General Osteopathic Council  
Ms Christine Farrell, HPC Council member  
Ms Thelma Harvey, Knowledge and Skills Framework  
Miss Morag MacKellar, HPC Council Member  
Dr Charles D Shaw, Independent health care advisor

**In attendance:**

Mr Michael Guthrie, Policy Manager  
Mr Steve Rayner, Secretary to the PLG

**Item 1.08/22 Apologies for absence**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Ms A Cowie, Scottish Government Health Directorates, Ms S Prout, UNISON, Mr K Ross, HPC Council member, Ms L Smith, Regulation Council for Clinical Physiologists, Miss E Thornton, HPC Council Member and from Mr M Woolcock, HPC Council member. Group members who submitted apologies were invited to submit comments on the final report via email to Mr Guthrie by 16 September 2008.

**Item 2.08/23 Approval of the agenda**

- 2.1 The Group approved the agenda.

### **Item 3.08/24 Minutes of the third PLG**

- 3.1 The minutes of the third meeting of the Group were accepted as a true record and signed.
- 3.2 The Chair thanked the Secretary to the Committee for producing minutes on a complex subject.

### **Item 4.08/25 Matters arising from the third PLG**

- 4.1 The Group agreed that any matters arising would be addressed as part of the report.

### **Item 5.08/26 Draft report to Council: Continuing Fitness to Practise - Towards an evidence-based approach to revalidation**

- 5.1 The Group received the draft report to Council. The report was compiled drawing together the strands of discussion from the previous four meetings of the Group.
- 5.2 The Group were invited to discuss:
  - (a) whether the recommendations outlined in the report were clear; and
  - (b) whether there was anything to add or to remove from the report.
- 5.3 The Group agreed that it would be appropriate to give a firm steer to Council on whether there was sufficient evidence of public harm to justify adding another layer of scrutiny into the continuing fitness to practise of health professionals.

#### Knowledge and Skills Framework

- 5.4 The group received an update on the Knowledge and Skills Framework (KSF) Group.
- 5.6 The Department of Health had agreed to fund a project, led by the KSFG, into the links between KSF and revalidation. The project would focus on how KSF impacts on:
  - Links between the standards set by regulators
  - Work of NHS employers

- Work of non NHS employers of health professionals
- Staff side representation

The objective of the project was to determine the usefulness of KSF as a tool to contribute towards the evidence base of registrants' continuing fitness to practise.

#### Portfolio of checks and balances

- 5.7 The Group agreed that evidence of a health professional's continuing fitness to practise was currently collected in a range of separate ways, and that this should be more clearly articulated in the report.

#### Section by section scrutiny of the draft

- 5.8 The Group discussed the report section by section. Minor changes to the text were recorded by Mr Guthrie and will be reflected in the final report to Council. A draft reflecting these changes, and including embedded diagrams would be circulated for members for approval before the report was submitted.

#### Significant additions to the text

- 5.9 A section discussing the pre-registration career phase should be included, including ways in which fitness to practise is initially established.
- 5.10 A better diagram to illustrate the various systems of establishing a registrant's continuing fitness to practise should be developed.
- 5.11 Chapter 5, Existing practice, should be split in to two sections in a way that was more clear.
- 5.12 Sections 5.2.41-43, which discuss the contribution clinical supervision makes to continuing fitness to practise, should be enhanced.

**Action:** **Mrs Crowder** to provide text for this enhancement to Mr Guthrie before 14 September 2008.

- 5.13 A paragraph should be added to 5.2 discussing the effect of existing systems of accountability and clinical governance with in the NHS on individual practitioners.

**Action:** **Dr Shaw** to provide text for this enhancement to Mr Guthrie before 14 September 2008.

Final draft report

- 5.14 The final report will be submitted as Council papers on or before 19 September 2008. Mr Guthrie will circulate the final draft for comment to the Group by 15 September.

**Action:** **The Group** should submit any comments or amendments before 17 September 2008.

**Item 6.08/27 Any other business**

- 6.1 The Group thanked Mr Guthrie for all of his work.

**Chair**

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**Date**

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