

Education and Training Committee

Public minutes of the 47th meeting of the Education and Training Committee held as follows:

Date: Thursday 18 November 2010

Time: 10:30 am

Venue: The Council Chamber, Health Professions Council, Park House, 184 Kennington Park Road, London SE11 4BU

Members:

Eileen Thornton (Chair)	Arun Midha
Gerald Armstrong-Bednall	Penny Renwick
Mary Clark-Glass	Deep Sagar
Jo-anne Carlyle	Jeff Seneviratne
Helen Davis	Robert Smith
John Donaghy	Jois Stansfield
John Harper	Annie Turner
Stephen Hutchins	Joy Tweed
Jeff Lucas	Diane Waller
Stuart Mackay	Stephen Wordsworth

In attendance:

Osama Ammar, Acting Director of Education
Anna van der Gaag, Chair of the Council
Abigail Gorringe, Director of Education
Michael Guthrie, Director of Policy and Standards
Claire Harkin, Customer Services Manager
Benjamin Potter, Education Officer
Steve Rayner, Secretary to the Committee
Lewis Roberts, Education Officer
Marc Seale, Chief Executive
Eve Seall, Head of Case Management
Charlotte Urwin, Policy Manager

Part 1 – Public Agenda

Item 1 Chair's welcome

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the Committee.

Item 2 Apologies for absence

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Mary Clark-Glass, Gill Pearson and Penny Renwick.

Item 3 Approval of agenda

- 3.1 The Committee agreed that it would discuss the provision of training for members under item 20; "any other business".
- 3.2 The Committee approved the agenda.

Item 4 Declaration of members' interests

- 4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

Item 5 Minutes of the meeting of 16 September 2010 (ETC 61/10)

- 5.1 Item 20.3 of the minutes was amended to reflect that final versions of agenda are approved by Committees as item 3, and not item 1.
- 5.2 Item 6.2 of the minutes was amended to remove "that" from the sentence.
- 5.3 The minutes were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chair

Item 6 Matters arising from previous meetings (ETC 62/10)

- 6.1 The Committee received a paper to note from the Executive summarising actions taken against matters arising from previous meetings.
- 6.2 The Committee noted an addition to 9.9 of the matters arising, regarding service user involvement; that the Executive would submit a paper to the 10 March 2010 meeting of the Committee.
- 6.3 The Committee noted that the actions list as agreed at the last meeting of the Committee.

Item 7 Director of Education's report (ETC 63/10)

- 7.1 The Committee received a paper from the Director of Education detailing the work of the Education Department (the Department) between September and November and providing updates on ongoing projects.
- 7.2 The paper included two appendices for the Committee's information: the Education Department enquiry log; and a status update on current projects.
- 7.3 The Committee discussed key activities for the department, during which discussion the following points were raised:

Annual report

- 7.3.1 The annual reports approved at the Committee's meeting on 8 June 2010 had completed the publication process, and was available on the HPC website and would be distributed in the January edition of Education update.

Education seminars

- 7.3.2 A Committee member who had attended an Education Seminar (one of a series of HPC workshop training sessions on the approvals process for education providers) provided feedback that the event was of a very high quality.

Modernisation of Scientific Careers

- 7.3.3 The Chief Executive was due to meet the Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) in December to discuss this project, which currently proposed the introduction of two new protected titles for statutory regulation: healthcare scientist and healthcare science practitioner.
- 7.3.4 The Chief Scientific Officer had been invited to speak to the Council on a number of occasions, and would also be invited to speak to the Committee.

ACTION: **Chair** to invite the CSO to attend a meeting of the Education and Training Committee.

- 7.3.5 There was a concern that students on some programmes designed for the modernising scientific careers agenda may have been be falsely under the impression that successful completion of would lead to eligibility to apply to the HPC Register.
- 7.3.6 The executive clarified that HPC had made it clear to the Department of Health project team that approval must be in place for any programme before students commence if it is intended that successful completion will lead to registration with HPC.

7.3.7 HPC had not been approached to approve any programmes for healthcare scientists or healthcare science practitioners.

7.3.8 Proposed professional standards relating to the healthcare scientist or healthcare science practitioner roles had not been made available to HPC. These proposals for standards would form the foundation of any decisions about whether these roles required statutory regulation by HPC.

Enquiry log

7.3.9 The Committee noted that a large number of enquiries from the general public had been from applicants to education programmes.

7.4 The Committee noted the Director's report.

Item 8 Regulation of social workers project (verbal update)

8.1 The Committee received a verbal update from the Chief Executive, Acting Director of Education and Director of Policy and Standards regarding the regulation of social workers project.

8.2 At the Council meeting on 14 October 2010, the Council agreed that there would be a standing item on every Council and Committee agenda, whereby the Executive would update the meeting on the progress of the project. As the project was developing rapidly, a verbal report on progress would be made to each meeting.

8.3 The update included the following issues, which the committee were invited to discuss:-

The Social Work Regulation Oversight Group:

8.3.1 The Group was made up of constituent members from the Department of Health, CHRE, GSCC, HPC as well as representatives of professional bodies.

8.3.2 The Group was responsible for overseeing the transfer of regulatory functions to HPC.

The Social Work Reform Board:

8.3.3 The Acting Director of Education had attended the Education Working Group, which fed into the Social Work Reform Board. The Group was responsible for addressing a number of issues linked to education arising from the social work reform agenda. The group was considering the following issues:

- raising the calibre of entrants to programmes;
- implementation of an assessed and supported year in employment; following completion of an approved programme;
- production of curriculum guidance for education providers;
- improvement of the quality of practice education; and
- development of an enhanced CPD framework for social workers.

Legislative timetable:

- 8.3.4 It was anticipated that the draft legislation would be published in the first week of December, and was due to receive its first reading in parliament before Christmas.
- 8.3.5 The Health Select Committee were due to consider the matter in the spring.
- 8.3.6 Current projections placed the opening of the register on 1 April 2012.

Transition project:

- 8.3.7 This was the fifth time a Register of professionals had been transferred to HPC, and HPC departments were working with their counterparts at GSCC to plan the transfer. The Education Department was due to meet with the Head of Social Work Education at GSCC to discuss the transition of the lists of currently and historically approved programmes and implementation of transitional approval and monitoring processes.
- 8.3.8 The Committee noted a difference with the way the two organisations dealt with fitness to practise cases. HPC dealt with matters of impairment and matters of competence, whereas GSCC dealt with matters of conduct only.
- 8.3.9 HPC was undertaking a series of meetings with Social Work bodies and other stakeholders, such as UNISON.
- 8.3.10 A Professional Liaison Group (PLG) would be convened to draft the Standards of Proficiency (SOPs) for Social Workers. The timetable for the PLG had been agreed by the Council.

Item 9 Proposals to consider changing the Medicines Act 1968 exemptions for sale, supply and administration of medicines (ETC 64/10)

- 9.1 The Committee received a paper for information and discussion from the Executive regarding changes to the arrangements for exemptions under Medicines Act 1968, which were under consideration by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

- 9.2 Some professions are able to access medicines for sale, supply or administration by way of exemptions from normal restrictions under the Medicines Act 1968. This was separate from prescribing rights. Paramedics, and chiropodists/podiatrists who had their entries in the register appropriately annotated, were able to access medicines via such exemption lists. These lists were maintained by the MHRA and legislative change was required to update them (for example, to reflect changes in available medicines).
- 9.3 The MHRA were informally consulting on proposals that in future the exemption lists for professions would no longer be written into legislation. Instead it would be the responsibility of the relevant statutory regulator to maintain and update the exemption lists applicable to the professions they regulate, depending upon what was necessary for practice.
- 9.4 The Executive was in dialogue with the Department of Health on the implications of any changes.
- 9.5 The paper provided the text of the consultation and analysis by the Executive, including the HPC's consultation response. The Executive would update the Committee on further developments as appropriate.
- 9.6 The Committee noted that changes could be achieved without a change to HPC's legislation but would require changes to relevant Medicines legislation.
- 9.7 The Committee noted that, should powers be transferred to HPC, it would be a key task to ensure that the burden on registrants would not increase. It was not clear how any change, or any additional administration, would be paid for.

Item 10 Health and character policy (ETC 65/10)

- 10.1 The Committee received a paper for discussion and approval from the Executive which set out recommendations for changes to HPC's approach to self referrals with regard to HPC registrant's fitness to practise issues.
- 10.2 The process had been reviewed following recommendations by CHRE in December 2009 that the HPC consider reviewing the approach of the Registration Panel in assessing self-referred allegations.
- 10.3 The Committee had been provided with an overview of the self referral process operated by the Fitness to Practise Department at its meeting of 8 June 2010.
- 10.4 The paper provided an analysis of the current policy and included proposals for its revision, such as changes to the registration panel process to reduce the amount of time registrants are under investigation by HPC.

10.5 The Committee noted that the Executive was conducting a review of the implications of the Equality Act 2010 for HPC processes and legislation.

10.6 The Committee approved the revised health and character policy.

Item 11 Review of annual monitoring activities of pre-registration education and training delivered by UK ambulance trusts (ETC 66/10)

11.1 The Committee received a paper for discussion and approval from the Executive providing the final outcomes of a review that had been conducted into the annual monitoring activities of pre-registration education and training delivered by UK ambulance trusts.

11.2 The review had been undertaken as part of the 2009-2010 workplan, and followed the programme of approval visits of all pre-registration education and training programmes delivered by UK ambulance trusts, which had been requested by the Committee at its meeting on 12 June 2007.

11.3 A draft version of the review had been provided to the last meeting of the Committee.

11.4 The Committee noted that all of the programmes in the review demonstrated a continued ability to meet the standards of education and training.

11.5 The Committee noted that the model for review was an example of good governance, and should be retained as an analytical mechanism that would be particularly useful during the new professions process.

11.6 The Committee approved the report and agreed that the content should be attached to the full summary report of approval visits and annual monitoring activities for UK ambulance trusts.

Item 12 Review of admission forms (ETC 67/10)

12.1 The Committee received a paper from the Executive for discussion and approval setting out proposed changes to HPC registration forms and guidance notes.

12.2 The changes had been drafted in anticipation of the clearance of legislation to remove the health reference requirement to HPC registration. The Council had agreed that the health reference should be removed at its meeting of 7 July 2010.

12.3 The Committee recommended the changes to the Council, subject to minor editing changes.

Item 13 Review of the process of HPC approval of practitioner psychologist pre-registration education and training programmes. (ETC 68/10)

13.1 The Committee received a paper to note providing an update on, and analysis of, the process of granting pre-registration training programmes approval or on-going approval.

13.2 The review had been undertaken as part of the 2009-10 workplan.

13.3 The report provided an outline and subsequent issues arising from the transfer of data from the British Psychological Society (BPS), analysis of trends from visitors reports, and highlighted lessons learnt and further work planned by HPC.

13.4 The Committee noted the report.

Item 14 Practitioner psychologists - list of approved programmes (ETC 69/10)

14.1 The Committee received a paper for discussion and approval from the Executive regarding the published list of practitioner psychologist programmes approved by HPC.

14.2 The Committee had considered this issue on 16 September 2010. This paper was drafted to address further changes to the list of approved programmes resulting from information received from the BPS. The amended list was provided as an appendix.

14.3 The Committee accepted the amendments to the list of historically approved programmes as outlined in the appendix 1 of the paper.

Item 15 Response to Department of Health exercise on independent prescribing (ETC 70/10)

15.1 The Committee received a paper to note from the Executive regarding a Department of Health (DH) exercise intended: 'To seek views on possibilities for introducing independent prescribing responsibilities for physiotherapists and chiropodists/podiatrists'.

15.2 The Committee had discussed the issue at the meeting of 16 September 2010 and had requested regular updates on the engagement exercise from the Policy Department.

15.3 The paper provided an update on HPC's work in this area, and included a draft of the HPC's response to the DH consultation exercise for the Committee's information.

15.4 The Committee noted the update and the HPC's consultation response.

Item 16 CHRE report - Managing extended practice (ETC 71/10)

- 16.1 The Committee received a paper to note from the Executive regarding the publication of a report by CHRE into 'Managing extended practice'.
- 16.2 The CHRE report related to the Foster review into the regulation of non-medical professionals' undertaken by the DH in 2006, and had been considered by the Council at its meeting on 17 September 2010.
- 16.3 The paper provided an analysis of the conclusions and recommendations in the CHRE report.
- 16.4 The Committee noted the paper.

Item 17 Reports from ETC representatives at external meetings (ETC 72/10)

- 17.1 The Committee received a paper to note from the Executive providing a feedback report which had been received from a member representing the Committee at an external meeting.
- 17.2 The Committee noted the report.

Item 18 Health and character declarations (ETC 73/10)

- 18.1 The Committee received a paper to note from the Executive providing an update on 'health and character declarations' received by the Fitness to Practise Department over the preceding 18 months.
- 18.2 The Committee noted the paper.

Item 19 Education and Training Committee Panel decisions (ETC 74/10)

- 19.1 The Committee received a paper to note from the Executive setting out the decisions made by Panels of the Committee, convened to consider HPC approval of Education programmes, between September and November 2010.
- 19.2 The Committee noted the decisions

Item 20 Any other business

- 20.1 It was noted that a training workshop on Committee strategy and future work for the Executive would be held after lunch

Committee member training

20.2 Training would be provided to members at more regular intervals on Education and Training issues. A session on Education and Training Panels would be arranged to follow a meeting of the Committee in Spring or Summer of 2011.

Chair

Date