

Education and Training Committee – 7 March 2013

Education and Training Committee appointments

Executive summary and recommendations

The Command paper, “Enabling Excellence – Autonomy and Accountability for Healthcare Workers, Social Workers and Social Care Workers” was published on 16 February 2011. The paper set out government’s intention to task CHRE with reviewing governance arrangements of the regulators and introduced plans to ensure that Councils are ‘board like’ and strategic in their focus.

In response, the CHRE review “Board size and effectiveness” concluded that decision making bodies of 8-12 members were most effective, and that smaller Councils would represent an efficiency saving by Regulators.

In responding to the CHRE review in December 2011, the Department of Health concluded that there was a compelling case for a move to appointed chairs and smaller councils, starting with the GMC and GDC (which had the largest Councils at the time). Following a consultation on the Constitution Orders for these Councils, the decision was taken to reduce the two bodies to 12 members.

Whilst HCPC were the next largest Council, legislative reform of the Council was delayed to allow us to deliver the transfer of regulation of social workers in England from GSCC. Approval was given by the DH’s legislative board in November 2012 to introduce legislation to reconstitute the HCPC by 1 January 2014.

It is likely that the DH will be working towards a similar Council size for HCPC of 12 members with parity of lay and professional. As a result of the expected reduction in the number of Council members, associated Committee structures will be reviewed in advance of any changes.

There are nine members of the Committee whose current terms are due to come to an end in October 2013. Rather than running reappointment, or appointment, exercises in respect of those posts, it is likely that the restructuring project will include the extension of those terms by the Council until January 2014 (or until such time as a new Council structure is implemented).

Decision

The paper is for information only. The members in question are requested to note, on a provisional basis, the additional Committee date on 14 November in their diaries.

Background Information

Enabling excellence - <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics>

Board size and effectiveness – <http://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/library>

GMC, GDC Constitution orders - <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations>

Resource Implications

None

Financial Implications

The cost of holding Committee meetings is allocated within the Committee budget 2011/12 and the cost of making appointments to the Education and Training Committee is allocated within the appointments part of the Council budget.

Date of paper

8 February 2013