

Fitness to Practise Committee, 22 February 2012

Public Protection

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

At its meeting in October 2011, the Fitness to Practise Committee considered a paper on the 2010-11 Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) performance review. In that performance review, CHRE again recommended that regulators should adopt the practice of asking registrants who are convicted or cautioned for drug or alcohol related offence to undertake a health assessment. In considering the CHRE performance review, the Committee asked the Executive to undertake further work to assess whether this practice mitigated a risk. The Committee also agreed that future work on this issue should look more widely on HPC's approach to the treatment of registrants who had been convicted or cautioned for an offence and how it affects their fitness to practise.

This paper is intended to provide the Committee with an update into the work that has been undertaken to progress and develop HPC's approach in this area.

The Executive has is in the process of writing to all the other health and social care regulatory bodies to ask for their policy on this topic and whether they had evaluated the approach that had been adopted.

As part of the Fitness to Practise and Policy and Standards department work plan for 2012-13, it is proposed that further research is commissioned and work is undertaken to further explore the concept of public protection and the information about individuals which would be relevant to the regulator in making decisions about fitness to practise.

Decision

This paper is for information, no decision is required.

Background information

In July 2010 the Council approved a policy statement on the meaning of fitness to practise. That statement now informs all HPC work on this topic. A copy of that statement can be found at http://www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10002FD8FTP_What_does_it_mean.pdf. In a previous paper considered in March 2010, the Council considered a paper reviewing HPC's approach to justice and the promotion of public protection. That paper can be found at <http://www.hpc->

uk.org/assets/documents/10002CF020100325Council-enc09-approachestojustice.pdf

Resource implications

Accounted for in draft 2012-13 budget

Financial implications

Accounted for in draft 2012-13 budget

Appendices

None

Date of paper

27 January 2011