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The Health Professions Council

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MINUTES of the nineteenth meeting of the Health Committee held at **2.00pm on Wednesday 12 September 2007** in MR1, The Evangelical Alliance, Whitfield House, 186 Kennington Park Road, London, SE11 4BT.

Present

Professor T Hazell (Chairman)

Mr O Altay

Mrs P Blackburn

Mr P Douglas

Professor A Turner

Mr N Willis

In attendance:

Dr A van der Gaag, President, Health Professions Council (HPC)

Ms N O'Sullivan, Secretary to Council

Mr M Chapman, Temporary Secretary to Committees

Item 1.07/17 Apologies for absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Drayton and Mrs J Pearce.
- 1.2 The Chairman welcomed Neil Willis to his first meeting of the Committee, following his re-election as the Registrant Member of Council for Biomedical Scientists.

Item 2.07/18 Approval of agenda

- 2.1 The Committee approved the agenda.

Item 3.07/19 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12 April 2007

- 3.1 It was agreed that the minutes of the eighteenth meeting of the Health Committee should be confirmed as a true record and signed

by the Chairman subject to the amendment of the date of the next meeting.

Item 4.07/20 Matters arising

- 4.1 The Committee received a paper from the Executive.
- 4.2 Item 5.2 – Matters Arising – Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics (SCPE)
- 4.2.1 The Committee noted that a further paper on the revised SCPE would be considered by all 3 Fitness to Practise Committees in November.
Action: KJ/NO'S – November 2007

Item 5.07/21 Chairman's report

- 5.1 The Chairman had nothing to report.

Item 6.07/22 Disposal of cases by consent

- 6.1 The Committee received a practice note (Disposal of Cases by Consent) and procedural forms for discussion/approval from the Director of Fitness to Practise.
- 6.2 The Committee noted that the Fitness to Practise Forum had discussed the practice note and procedural forms and had recommended the document to the Health Committee for approval without modification.
- 6.3 The Committee approved the practice note and forms.

Item 7.07/23 Fitness to Practise hearing locations

- 7.1 The Committee received a practice note (Hearing Locations) for approval from the Director of Fitness to Practise.
- 7.2 The Fitness to Practise Forum discussed the practice note and recommended it to the Health Committee for approval without modification.
- 7.3 The Committee approved the practice note.

Item 8.07/24 Practise notes

- 8.1 The Committee received the following practice notes for approval from the Director of Fitness to Practise:

- (i) Case Management and Directions
- (ii) Service of Documents
- (iii) Welsh Language
- (iv) Adjournments
- (v) Mediation
- (vi) Interim Orders
- (vii) Preliminary Hearings
- (viii) Disclosure of Witness Orders

8.2 The Committee noted that the Fitness to Practice Forum had discussed the practice notes. The Forum had recommended that the practice note entitled Interim Orders should be amended to include a reference to a right of appeal against an interim order. The other practice notes were recommended for approval without modification.

8.3 The Committee approved the practice note as recommended by the Fitness to Practice Forum.

Item 9.07/25 Committee self-evaluation

9.1 The Committee received a paper for discussion/approval from the Temporary Secretary to the Committee.

9.2 Members agreed to complete and return the enclosed self-evaluation forms to the Secretariat by September 17 2007. It was also agreed that Mr Willis should be exempt from this requirement as he was a new member and this was his first Health Committee meeting.

9.3 The Committee noted that the results of the evaluation would be analysed and presented to the Committee at its meeting in November.

Action: NO'S – 7 November 2007

Item 10.07/26 Committee membership

10.1 The Forum received a paper to note from the Temporary Secretary to the Committee.

10.2 The Committee noted that the Council had ratified the appointment of Mr J Donaghy to the Committee at its meeting in July 2007.

- 10.3 The Committee noted that Dr C Kenny had decided not to seek reappointment to the Committee and that any decision regarding Dr Kenny's replacement would be put on hold pending decisions regarding the governance arrangements for a new Council outlined in the White Paper 'Trust, Assurance and Safety, the Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century.'
- 10.4 The Committee agreed that it was very important to have a registered medical practitioner as a member of the Committee and that therefore the process should be put in place to recruit a replacement for Dr Kenny.

Action: NO'S – ongoing

Item 11.07/27 Dates of Investigating Committee meetings 2008-09

- 11.1 The Committee received a paper to note from the Temporary Secretary to the Committee.

Item 12.07/28 Any other business

- 12.1 There was no other business.

Item 13.07/29 Date and time of next Health Committee meeting:

- 13.1 The next Health Committee will be held on 7 November 2007 and commence at 11am.
- 13.2 Subsequent meetings would be held at 11.00am on:

Tuesday 5 February 2008

Wednesday 23 April 2008 (FtP Forum) – start time 10.30am