

**Council**

**Public minutes of the 64th meeting of the Health Professions Council held as follows:-**

**Date:** Thursday 14 October 2010

**Time:** 1pm

**Venue:** Hotel Seattle, Brighton Marina, Brighton, BN2 5WA

**Present:**

Anna van der Gaag (Chair)

Mary Clark-Glass

Malcolm Cross

John Donaghy

Sheila Drayton

Julia Drown

John Harper

Jeff Lucas

Morag Mackellar

Arun Midha

Penelope Renwick

Keith Ross

Deep Sagar

Eileen Thornton

Annie Turner

Joy Tweed

Diane Waller

Neil Willis

Mr O Ammar, Acting Director of Education

Mr G Butler, Director of Finance

Mr G Gaskins, Director of Information Technology

Mr M Guthrie, Director of Policy and Standards

Ms L Hart, Secretary to Council

Ms T Haskins, Director of Human Resources

Ms K Johnson, Director of Fitness to Practise

Ms J Ladds, Director of Communications

Mr S Rayner, Secretary to Committees

Mr G Ross-Sampson, Director of Operations

Mr M J Seale, Chief Executive and Registrar

#### **Item 1.10/171 Chair's welcome and introduction**

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed all Council members to the meeting. The Chair gave particular welcome to Rachel Newman, a Policy Adviser from the General Social Care Council (GSCC).

#### **Item 2.10/172 Apologies for absence**

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Richard Kennett.

#### **Item 3.10/173 Approval of agenda**

- 3.1 The Council agreed to the inclusion of an item under "any other business" relating to the communications between the Executive and the Council on issues relating to the transfer of the regulatory functions from the GSCC to the HPC. The Council approved the agenda, subject to the inclusion of the additional item.

#### **Item 4.10/174 Declaration of Members' Interest**

- 4.1 There were no interests declared.

#### **Item 5.10/175 Minutes of the Council meeting of 17 September 2010 (report ref:-HPC130/10)**

- 5.1 It was agreed that the minutes of the 63rd meeting of the Health Professions Council be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **Item 6.10/176 Matters arising (report ref:-HPC131/10)**

- 6.1 The Council noted the action list as agreed at the last meeting.
- 6.2 The Council noted that the Chief Scientific Officer, Professor Sue Hill, had been invited to the December Council meeting.
- 6.3 The Council noted the report.

#### **Item 7.10/177 Consultation on our proposals for post-registration qualifications (report ref:-HPC132/10)**

- 7.1 The Council received a paper from the Executive.

7.2 The Council noted that, subject to approval, the consultation document would be used to consult on proposals about whether HPC should annotate additional post-registration qualifications on the Register and whether HPC should consider annotating two post-registration qualifications, namely podiatric surgery and neuropsychology on the Register.

7.3 During the course of discussion, the following points were raised:-

- That other Regulators used a variety of approaches in terms of post registration qualifications. For example, the GMC held a “specialist list” and this was a similar approach to that taken by the GDC;
- That a reference was required in the document to taking a proportionate approach to risk. After discussion, it was agreed that this should be incorporated into the introduction of the consultation paper;
- That the reference on page 8 of the document relating to the wider matrix of regulation and governance systems, needed to be incorporated into the criteria covered under 3.18. After discussion, it was agreed that it would be more appropriate to insert a reference under 3.19 “additional information;”
- That, prior to publication of the consultation document, it would be necessary to check the qualifications and routes to both neuropsychology and podiatric surgery;
- That annotation of the Register may carry with it a protected title or function and this was therefore distinct from the registers of practitioners with special interests overseen by professional bodies;
- The need to ensure that the consultation paper did not raise expectations and should be neutral in tone. Two amendments highlighted in paragraphs 3.53 and 3.90 were agreed on that basis;
- That the reference to neuropsychology under 3.56 was a definition provided by the British Psychological Society and should be referenced accordingly.

7.4 The Council agreed the text of the consultation document subject to the amendments detailed above.

**Item 8.10/178 Standards of Proficiency for Social Workers (report ref:- HPC133/10)**

- 8.1 The Council received a paper from the Executive.
- 8.2 The Council noted that Professional Liaison Groups (PLG) were the established mechanism for drafting standards of proficiency, for example prior to the opening of the Register to Practitioner Psychologists. This process had been shown to be an effective method of gathering the necessary expertise for achieving new standards or revising existing ones.
- 8.3 The Council noted that the requirement to draft Standards of Proficiency and the way in which they needed to be drafted was determined by HPC's legislation. Reference to existing standards and competencies would be taken into account in the drafting of standards for social workers.
- 8.4 In terms of the timetable, Council noted that the legislation was now due to be published in the second week of December although the Professional Liaison Group planned to proceed on the basis of the timetable set out in the paper.
- 8.5 During the course of discussion, the following points were raised:-
- That it was important to ensure that the process for appointment to the PLG was carried out in a transparent manner. The Council noted that this would be done in accordance with the published PLG operating manual;
  - That all meetings would be held in public so there would be an opportunity for individuals to observe the proceedings;
  - That it was important to ensure that the process for drafting the standards of proficiency (SOPS) for social workers dovetailed with the ongoing work with generic standards of proficiency;
  - That in terms of timeframe, the SOPS would need to be consulted on and published prior to the opening of the Register to social workers;
  - That those programmes that were currently dually accredited, for example by the GSCC and the NMC, would continue under this dual regime when HPC took over the statutory regulation of social workers from the GSCC.
- 8.6 In accordance with the agreed process for the establishment of a PLG, Professor Jeff Lucas, lay Council member, was nominated as Chair, and Council supported the nomination.

8.7 The Council agreed:-

- (i) the establishment of a Professional Liaison Group to help prepare the draft standards of proficiency for social workers;
- (ii) the contents of the workplan; and
- (iii) that Professor Jeff Lucas should Chair the PLG.

**Item 9.10/179 The Health Professions Council (Registration and Fees) (Amendment) Rules 2010 (report ref:- HPC134/10)**

9.1 The Council received a paper for discussion/approval from the Executive.

9.2 The Council noted that approval was sought in principle to these Rules and subsequent approval would be sought to the Rules in their final form.

9.3 The Council agreed:-

- (i) the draft Health Professions Council (Registration and Fees) (Amendment) Rules 2010;
- (ii) that approval of those Rules in their final form (by the Chair and Chief executive signing the rules and affixing the seal of the Council) be given by means of electronic resolution, subject to the Solicitor to the Council providing a report either (1) confirming that no amendments have been made to the draft Rules or (2) explaining any amendments which have been made and confirming that they do not constitute material changes to the draft Rules.

## Corporate Governance

**Item 10.10/180 Minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 6 September 2010 (report ref:- HPC135/10)**

10.1 The Council received a paper for discussion/approval from the Executive.

10.2 The Council approved the recommendations therein.

**Item 11.10/181 Any other business: Transfer of the Regulatory functions from the GSCC to HPC (additional item)**

11.1 The Council agreed under item 3 to the inclusion of this additional item.

- 11.2 Following discussion at the Council awayday workshop held in the morning, members felt that they would like to receive further regular briefings in between Council meetings on the ongoing work in relation to the transfer of the regulatory functions from the GSCC to the HPC in order to fulfill their scrutiny role.
- 11.3 The Council agreed that updates would be sent electronically to members between meetings and 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. It was noted that policy papers addressing specific issues such as student registration, reciprocity arrangements across the four UK countries, continuing professional development and issues surrounding the regulation of social care workers would be submitted to the appropriate meetings of Committee and Council in due course.
- 11.4 The Council agreed to the information updates as detailed above and agreed that this arrangement be kept under review.

**Item 12.10/182 Date and time of next meeting**

- 12.1 Thursday 9 December 2010 at 10.30am.

**Item 13.10/183 Resolution**

The Council agreed to adopt the following resolution:-

“The Council hereby resolves that the remainder of the meeting shall be held in private, because the matters being discussed relate to the following;

- (i) information relating to a registrant, former registrant or application for registration;
- (ii) information relating to an employee or office holder, former employee or applicant for any post or office;
- (iii) the terms of, or expenditure under, a tender or contract for the purchase or supply of goods or services or the acquisition or disposal of property;
- (iv) negotiations or consultation concerning labour relations between the Council and its employees;
- (v) any issue relating to legal proceedings which are being contemplated or instituted by or against the Council;
- (vi) action being taken to prevent or detect crime to prosecute offenders;
- (vii) the source of information given to the Council in confidence; or
- (viii) any other matter which, in the opinion of the Chair, is confidential or the public disclosure of which would prejudice the effective discharge of the Council’s functions.

Item	Reason for Exclusion
14	iv and viii
15	-
16	iii
17	iv

**Summary of those matters considered whilst the public were excluded**

**Item 14.10/184 Minutes of the Private part of the Council meeting held on 17 September 2010 (report ref:- HPC136/10)**

14.1 The Council considered and approved the minutes of the private part of the Council meeting held on 17 September 2010.

**Item 15.10/185 Item 26.10/162 Matters arising**

15.1 The Council noted that there were no matters arising from the private part of the Council minutes of 17 September 2010.

**Item 16.10/186 Minutes of the private part of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 6 September 2010 (Report ref:-HPC137/10)**

16.1 The Council considered the private minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 6 September 2010 and agreed the recommendations therein.

**Item 17.10/187 Minutes of the private part of the Remuneration Committee held on 6 September 2010 (report ref:-HPC138/10)**

17.1 The Council considered the private minutes of the Remuneration Committee held on 6 September 2010 and agreed the recommendations therein.

**Item 18.10/188**

18.1 There were no additional items for consideration in private this day.

Chair: .....

Date: .....