

Council meeting, 20 May 2010

Policy and Standards Department Report

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

In order to provide the Council with more information about the activities of the Policy and Standards Department, the Executive plans to include in the Council agenda a report as a paper to note approximately 4 times a year.

The first of those reports is attached. This is adapted from reporting produced for meetings of the Executive Management Team on a monthly basis.

Decision

This paper is to note; no decision is required.

Background information

Please also see the Chief Executive and Registrar's report included in the agenda at each Council meeting.

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

None

Appendices

None

Date of paper

10 May 2010

Policy and Standards Department – for May 2010 Council meeting

Consultations

- Open consultations: Standards of proficiency for health psychologists (deadline: 12/07/2010).
- Forthcoming consultations (subject to Council and Committee decisions): Generic standards of proficiency (July to October); post-registration qualifications (August to October).
- External consultations (where a response has recently been made): NMC consultation on reporting concerns; Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman consultation on sharing information about complaints with third parties; Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence consultation on revised performance review and standards; Department of Health consultation on duty of co-operation regulations; General Pharmaceutical Council consultation on draft statutory rules; Department of Health consultation on extending prescribing responsibilities to paramedics;
- External consultations (where a response is planned): General Pharmaceutical Council consultation on draft standards

Key to tables overleaf

Dept

This denotes where the involvement or input of another department may be required for the upcoming milestone.

C: Communications; CE: Chief Executive; E: Education – Approvals and Monitoring; F: Finance; FT: Fitness to Practise; H: HR & Partners; I: Information Technology; F: Facilities; R: Registration; S: Secretariat.

PT: Denotes the relevant project team for a cross-departmental project.

Owner

AD: Alison Dittmer, Policy Officer; CU: Charlotte Urwin, Policy Manager; MG: Michael Guthrie, Director of Policy and Standards; MS: Megan Scott, Policy Manager.

The tables outline the main project work being undertaken by the Department. This is in addition to other ongoing activities such as presenting at meetings and conferences, responding to external consultations and ad-hoc papers and briefings. N.B: The listed milestones are illustrative rather than exhaustive.

New professions

Project	Project explanation	Overall deadline	Milestones	Milestone date	Dept	Owner
Hearing Aid Dispensers COMPLETED	Regulation of hearing aid dispensers	April 2010	Training for registration advisors Briefing notes / FAQs for internal use and for website Council post-section 60 Order approval; ratification of standards of proficiency and threshold level	Feb/Mar 2010 Feb 2010 Feb 2010	PT PT PT	CU MS/CU CU
Psychotherapists and counsellors PLG	To make final decisions / recommendations about regulation and to finalise standards of proficiency	May 2011	PLG meeting	12 May 2010	CE	MG
Healthcare scientists	Regulation of healthcare scientists	TBC	Briefing on regulation of healthcare scientists	TBC	All	MG
Review of the new professions process	Review / revise new professions process	TBC	Paper to Council on plans for review	June 2010	All	MG / CU

Standards / guidance

Project	Project explanation	Overall deadline	Milestones	Milestone date	Dept	Owner
Whistleblowing guidance	Paper on whistleblowing to the HPC Council (recommendation that web information might be produced, not guidance)	TBC	Response to NMC consultation on reporting concerns COMPLETED Paper to the Council discussing whether guidance is necessary	April 2010 May 2010	FT	AD AD
CPD sample profiles	Sample profiles for HPC website	Ongoing	CPD profiles published (Currently ongoing for practitioner psychologists, art therapists, hearing aid dispensers, music therapists, clinical scientists and Dietitians)	Ongoing	All	AD
Review generic standards of proficiency	Review, consult and republish generic standards of proficiency	From Jan 2011 (rolling implementation)	Finalise wording for draft standards and develop consultation document Education and Training Committee and Council approval Public consultation	May 2010 June / July 2010 July to Oct 2010	All	MS MS MS

Project	Project explanation	Overall deadline	Milestones	Milestone date	Dept	Owner
Health references	Remove health reference requirement for entry to the Register (subject to consultation outcome)	Mar 2011 (implementation)	Analyse consultation responses Draft new guidance and consultation paper on changes to guidance on health and character (subject to above) Education and Training Committee and Council ratification Public consultation	May 2010 June 2010 June and July 2010 August 2010 to November 2010	R, FT	AD AD AD AD
Review of the threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register	Review / amend the threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register	TBC (subject to further discussion at ETC)	Paper for ETC discussing the existing standards COMPLETED Further paper for ETC (no decision made at first meeting) Further work dependent upon above, which may include 'Focus group' meetings with stakeholders	March 2010 June 2010 September to October 2010	E	MG

Project	Project explanation	Overall deadline	Milestones	Milestone date	Dept	Owner
Standards of proficiency for health psychologists	Consultation on change to health psychologists standards of proficiency	October 2010	Analysis consultation responses Consultation responses and final proposals to ETC and Council	June / July 2010 September / October 2010	E	CU

Other

Project	Project explanation	Overall deadline	Milestones	Milestone date	Dept	Owner
Alternative mechanisms for resolving disputes	Explore alternative mechanisms for resolving disputes	December 2010	<p>Send out tender for literature review (deadline for responses 28/05/2010) COMPLETED</p> <p>Review of fitness to practise decisions (not yet initiated)</p> <p>Set up stakeholder event for late September 2010</p>	<p>March 2010</p> <p>Ongoing with reports for FTP Committee</p> <p>April / May 2010</p>	FT	MG
Post-registration qualifications	<p>Agree clear position / principles on the annotation of post-registration qualifications</p> <p>Annotate the Register for podiatric surgeons and neuropsychologists</p>	2011 /2012 onwards (start of possible operational implementation)	<p>Meetings with relevant stakeholders (e.g. Scottish Government, DH, Royal College of Surgeons in England)</p> <p>Consultation paper to Education and Training Committee and Council</p> <p>Public consultation</p>	<p>April / May 2010</p> <p>June / July 2010</p> <p>August to October 2010</p>	E	CU

Project	Project explanation	Overall deadline	Milestones	Milestone date	Dept	Owner
Revalidation	Research and feasibility study for revalidation	TBC	Tender for research looking at fitness to practise statistics and CPD audit data Trip to North American regulators	Feb 2010, responses by 30 April 2010 June 2010	CE	MS
Welsh language scheme	Publish scheme setting out how we will meet the requirements of the Welsh Language Act	July 2010 (subject to WLB approval)	Final sign off from Welsh Language Board and consultation on draft scheme (subject to delay pending Welsh Language Board response)	April 2010	All	CU
Safeguarding vulnerable groups	Participation in project team	Ongoing	More detailed briefing for members of the policy team / update to Council members Article for next HPC In Focus	Ongoing May / June 2010	PT	CU
CHRE performance review 2009/2010	CHRE performance review	Jun / Jul 2010 (publication of final CHRE report)	Put together internal document setting out commitments / responsibilities as a result of performance review submissions (for EMT) Following publication of report, put together paper for EMT and Council paper	May 2010 Post report	All	MG

Project	Project explanation	Overall deadline	Milestones	Milestone date	Dept	Owner
Fees rise (subject to decision by the Finance and Resources Committee and Council about whether a rise is necessary)	Consult on changes to registration fees	2011/2012	Finalise consultation document and receive sign off from F&R and Council Public consultation Consultation analysis	June / July 2010 July to October 2010 October and November 2010	PT	MS AD AD