

Health Professions Council – 20 May 2010

Reports from Council representatives at external meetings

Executive Summary and Recommendations

**Introduction**

The attached feedback forms have been received from the following members of Council, reporting back from meetings at which they have represented the HPC:-

Annie Turner  
Diane Waller  
Joy Tweed

**Decision**

The Council is requested to note the documents.

**Background information**

None

**Resource implications**

None

**Financial implications**

The cost for attendance at conferences/meetings has been incorporated into the Council annual budget.

**Background papers**

None

**Appendices**

Copies of feedback forms

**Date of paper**

10 May 2010

<b>Name of Council Member</b>	<b>Annie Turner</b>
<b>Title of event</b>	<b>HEALTH network group advisory board Away Day</b>
<b>Date of event</b>	<b>5 March 2010</b>
<b>Approximate attendance at event</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Issues of Relevance to HPC</b>	
<p>This was the first meeting of the group that I had attended after volunteering to be HPC's representative.</p> <p>The presentation of a summary of new policies that effect health education showed that it was difficult to identify any major themes from these. There was a feeling that policies were not 'joined up'.</p> <p>The HEA has to make a 30% budget cut over the next 3 years and therefore the workshop focused on strategies that would minimise the impact on health education. Discussion focused on the uniqueness of health education in an effort to identify areas of priority for retention.</p>	
<b>Key Decisions Taken</b>	
<p>Despite suggestions that commissioning, public funding, practice placement, ethical practice and public protection were unique features of health education it was decided that this was not the case. The meeting felt the uniqueness lay in the ability to understand, develop and apply these issues to a particular context.</p> <p>It was therefore decided that the group would suggest that, in the new organisation, generic issues should be allocated to particular centres that would develop expertise and would use subject reference groups for specific information where necessary.</p> <p>Final decisions on the new structure will be made by the HEA executive in September.</p>	

<b>Name of Council Member</b>	<b>Diane Waller</b>
<b>Title of event</b>	<b>The Big Debate: Regulation of Psychotherapists and Counsellors</b>
<b>Date of event</b>	<b>16 March 2010</b>
<b>Approximate attendance at event</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Issues of Relevance to HPC</b>	
<p>All relevant as focussed on regulation. I spoke on a panel with Janet Lowe from the Alliance, David Pink from UKCP and Sally Aldridge from BACP. I gave a factual brief paper as requested, letting people know a little about the HPC, current work and indications of our future work plan. Following the short presentations, the meeting was opened up to questions to the panel.</p> <p>The meeting demonstrated that there are still many misunderstandings about regulation itself, regulation by the HPC and what this will mean for professionals. Despite my addressing the concerns over the language of the current SoPs (generic standards) and our recent revision of these, the myth that all HPC professions adhere to the 'medical model' persists. The issue of differentiation came up many times, clearly an issue raising considerable anxiety and anger among both sides in the debate.</p>	
<b>Key Decisions Taken</b>	
<p>Not a decision making meeting. Need for more communication about the reality of statutory regulation and continued engagement of the practitioners in future work.</p>	

<b>Name of Council Member</b>	<b>Joy Tweed</b>
<b>Title of event</b>	<b>CHRE iLEARN - uLEARN</b>
<b>Date of event</b>	<b>17 March 2010</b>
<b>Approximate attendance at event</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Issues of Relevance to HPC</b>	
<p>Various stakeholders attended such as members of LINKs, the voluntary sector and various regulators. Participants were invited to give feedback on various publications, such as CHRE's review of 2008/9 and a proposed publication 'Health and social care regulation in the UK: an introductory guide'. This describes the regulation of people, places and products in each of the 4 countries of the UK.</p> <p>Another proposed new guide for the public is to look at key considerations to be made on approaching a health provider. Participants were invited to respond to 6 discussion questions around regulation to help inform the production of the leaflet. Feedback revealed that most present made an assumption that health professionals were qualified and competent, no-one had ever checked the credentials of someone who was treating them. People were not aware of how to complain about a health professional and it was suggested this information be more widely available.</p>	

Presentations were given on auditing of fitness to practice cases, quality assurance (from the GDC) and CHRE's communication strategy.

CHRE has a public stakeholder network which it invites to review publications, respond to consultations and attend meetings with the public such as road-shows. Question – is this an area that could be explored further by HPC?

**Key Decisions Taken**

No decisions taken.

<b>Name of Council Member</b>	<b>Joy Tweed</b>
<b>Title of event</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Community Consultation
<b>Date of event</b>	<b>31 March 2010</b>
<b>Approximate attendance at event</b>	<b>100 people</b>

**Issues of Relevance to HPC**

Theme: Consultation is becoming part of our culture. Local Government has a duty to promote democracy and on 15<sup>th</sup> June a new duty comes into place for local authorities to respond to petitions, such as concerns about local schools or hospitals.

Do people want to be involved? Ipsos Mori reported on a recent survey that revealed that 16% of people are not interested, 47% want more information, 24% want more of a say, 5% want involvement and 4% are already involved. Whilst the numbers seem small that still equates to 1.5m people wanting to be more involved and 7.2m people who want more of a say in local services.

Relevance to HPC? Within health and local government there is an increasing emphasis on consultation and community engagement. If this does bring about the hoped-for increase in active and empowered citizens, will there be an increasing expectation of involvement within professional education and regulation?

**Key Decisions Taken**

No decisions taken.