

Council, 22 March 2017

Chief Executive's report

Executive summary and recommendations

**Introduction**

This report provides an update from the Chief Executive.

**Decision**

The Council is asked to discuss the Chief Executive's report.

**Appendices**

None

**Date of paper**

13 March 2017

## **Chief Executive's report – 22 March 2017**

### **1. Meetings attended**

- A list of the meetings the Chief Executive has attended since the last Council meeting is attached.

### **2. External policy matters**

#### **Regulation of social workers in England**

- The Children and Social Work Bill completed its passage through the House of Commons on 7 March 2017. The House of Lords will now consider the Commons' amendments to the Bill on a date to be confirmed.
- The Executive has continued to respond to requests for information from colleagues in the Department for Education working on the project to establish the new regulator. Papers have also been prepared for consideration by the Council at this meeting looking at the financial and operational impact of the transfer of social workers.

#### **Memorandum of understanding with the Care Councils**

- When the Register for social workers in England was opened, the HCPC entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the other regulators of social workers in the UK (collectively known as the care councils).<sup>1</sup> This was to ensure that social workers registered or qualified in a UK country could be registered without unnecessary barriers in another UK country.
- The other care councils have recently advised that they have taken the decision not to register without restriction the graduates of the HCPC approved programme run by Frontline. The Frontline programme is a so-called 'fast track' scheme for entry to the profession with a particular focus on preparing graduates to work with children and families.
- The care councils have concluded that the programme is insufficiently 'generic' and as a result have decided that they will register graduates with conditions to only work in children and family settings and/or with additional training requirements. We are in correspondence with the care councils to establish the evidence base for the conclusions they have reached. The standards of proficiency set out the standards required to produce a so-called 'generic' social worker and do not produce social workers who are only equipped to work solely with certain client groups. Dependent on the outcome

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.hcpc-uk.co.uk/assets/documents/1000434CSocialwork-MemorandumofUnderstanding.pdf>

of this correspondence / discussion, it is likely we will need to revise the MOU in the near future.

### **Regulation reform**

- At the time of writing, the four country Government consultation on regulation reform has yet to be published. Shortly prior to the last Council meeting Baroness Goldie, in a debate in the House of Lords, said that the Government planned to consult on 'radical reform of professional regulation' and said that this would take place 'within the next couple of months'.<sup>2</sup>

### **Regulation of herbal medicine practitioners**

- In 'Enabling excellence' (2011) the Government said that it intended to legislate for the HCPC to regulate practitioners who use herbal medicines. This policy was never implemented. Instead the Government subsequently asked the Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Prof. David Walker to undertake an independent review, which reported its findings in March 2015. The Government has now published a statement in response in both Houses of Parliament.
- The response endorses the review's overall conclusion that the sector should seek approval of voluntary register(s) by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA). The statement says that the Government would be open to considering statutory regulation in the future, but only once 'there is further evidence to understand the risk and confirm what level of assurance is appropriate and proportionate'.<sup>3</sup>

### **3. Financial and operational update**

- The Professional Standards Authority (PSA) performance review is underway. The PSA have recently advised that they intend to carry out a 'targeted review'. The areas they wish to consider further are chiefly those that relate to the three standards they considered were not met in the 2015-16 review.
- The Executive has recently responded to a range of questions from the PSA. The PSA will also be carrying out an audit of a sample of fitness to practise cases between April and June 2017.

---

<sup>2</sup> [https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-02-03/debates/229BBCB3-5929-4535-A873-F3B484D940C7/RegulationOfHealthAndSocialCareProfessionsEtcBill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-02-03/debates/229BBCB3-5929-4535-A873-F3B484D940C7/RegulationOfHealthAndSocialCareProfessionsEtcBill(HL))

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2017-02-28/HCWS505>

- Following discussion at previous Council meetings and at the Council's workshop in February 2017, the Executive has been considering our future approach to performance reporting to the Council. The appendix overleaf outlines how the Executive proposes to work with the Council to take account of the feedback received.

## **Performance reporting**

- 1.1 The following outlines how the Executive proposes to work with the Council to take account of its feedback on our approach to the reporting of performance information.

### **Council meeting, March 2017**

- 1.2 As in previous years, no performance reporting is on the agenda at this meeting.
- 1.3 The directorate work plans for 2017-18 are included on the agenda. In previous years each work plan has been considered separately by the Council. This year, in light of feedback, they have been collated into a single agenda item. A short, high level summary of the notable activities planned in each directorate is included. The work plans have been discussed by the Executive Management Team (EMT) and approved by the Chief Executive and Registrar.
- 1.4 The Council is invited to discuss and to note the work plans – there will be an opportunity for Council members to ask any questions they may have. The Council is also invited to agree how it wishes to consider / receive work plans in future years.

### **Council meeting, May 2017**

- 1.5 The directorate reports normally considered by the Council will be included on the agenda at this meeting.
- 1.6 In addition, the Council will be invited to consider a paper which will set out proposals / options for performance reporting going forward, taking into account the Council's feedback. This will outline the proposed format of a future, single collated report to be presented by the Chief Executive and Registrar; the data and commentary that will be included at each meeting; and outline the data that the Council will no longer receive on a regular basis. The paper will also outline the proposed frequency of other regular reports to Council (e.g. customer service and information governance reporting).
- 1.7 The ongoing role of the Executive Management Team (EMT) in monitoring day-to-day performance will also be outlined. We anticipate that the data currently received by the Council will continue to be considered by the EMT and, to ensure transparency for external stakeholders, will be published monthly online.
- 1.8 The Council will be invited to discuss the proposal and agree the performance reporting it wishes to receive on an ongoing basis. This will ensure that that there is clarity that the Council's needs and expectations will be met before the new approach is implemented.

## **Council meeting, July 2017**

- 1.9 At this meeting, the new performance report will be considered by the Council. The Council will be invited to agree that this report meets its needs. Any further refinements identified will be implemented in the September 2017 report.

**Chief Executive – Marc Seale**

**Meetings up to April 2017**

Shandong Provincial Health and Family Planning Commission visit HCPC	23 Feb
Meeting with Suzanne Rastrick, Chief Allied Health Professions Officer at NHS England	1 Mar
Visit to Plymouth University	6 Mar
Meet the HCPC event, Cardiff	8 Mar
PSA Academic and Research Conference	9 Mar
Meeting with Society and College of Radiographers	15 Mar
Clinical Leadership Steering Group	16 Mar
Chief Executives Steering Group	17 Mar

**Scheduled Meetings**

Chief Executives Legislation Group	30 Mar
Advancing Healthcare Awards	31 Mar