

Education and Training Committee, 14 November 2013

Professional indemnity – update

Executive summary and recommendations

### **Introduction**

At its meeting on 12 September 2013, the Committee approved and recommended to the Council the text of revised guidance for registrants on the forthcoming requirement for registrants to have in place a professional indemnity arrangement as a condition of registration. This requirement will not apply to social workers in England. The Council ratified the Committee's decision at its subsequent meeting.

At the same meeting, the Committee also approved and recommended to the Council the text of a consultation document on proposed amendments to the HCPC's Registration and Fees Rules. These amendments were necessary to implement the provisions outlined in the forthcoming Health Care and Associated Professions (Indemnity Arrangements) Order 2013 ('the Indemnity Order').

Shortly prior to the Council's meeting, we were advised by the Department of Health that the Indemnity Order was likely to be laid and passed later than anticipated and that the HCPC should not proceed with consulting on changes to its Rules. As a result, the paper was withdrawn from the Council's consideration.

At the time of writing, the Department of Health had indicated that the legislation was planned to be laid in November 2013 and effective in February 2014. We will update the Committee once we have more information.

We plan to publish the guidance around the time the legislation is approved. The deviation from the anticipated timescale means that we have the opportunity to ensure that the guidance reaches the standard to be 'crystal marked' by the Plain English Campaign, in line with other registrant-facing guidance.

Once the legislation is in place, we will still need to agree a timetable with the Department of Health around amendments necessary to the Rules. The timetable for this is unclear at this stage. A public consultation would be required. As a result, we will not be able to start asking registrants and applicants to make declarations until the Rules are changed.

In the meantime, we have published information on the website based on the draft guidance; included information in the 'In Focus' newsletter; and sent information to key stakeholder contacts.

**Decision**

The paper is to note; no decision is required.

**Background information**

- Professional indemnity page on the HCPC website:  
<http://www.hcpc-uk.org/registrants/indemnity/>

**Resource implications**

None

**Financial implications**

None

**Appendices**

None

**Date of paper**

1 November 2013