Public business

Chief Executive & Registrar’s report

Purpose
To keep the Council abreast of significant recent meetings and developments.

Recommendation
The Council is asked to note this paper.

1.0 Recent meetings

1.1 The following is a non-exhaustive selection of significant meetings held during the two months since the last Council meeting. Initials are as follows: Bob Nicholls (RMN), Duncan Rudkin (DR), Hilary Lloyd (HL), Bernard Kelly (BK), Hugh Simpson (HS), Elaine Mulingani (EM):

1.2 Chair:
- Gatenby Sanderson “Future of healthcare regulation” round table discussion led by Steve Bundred (interim Chair of Monitor)
- Medical Education England board meeting
- Launch of Pharmacy Voice
- Anna Bradley – Chair, General Optical Council
- Fabian health seminar: Health and devolution: lessons and futures in policy and outcomes, with Dr Jennifer Dixon and Professor Gareth Williams
- MPC Response to the Liberating the NHS: Developing the Healthcare Workforce sub group meeting
- Norman Lannigan, Lead Pharmacist Acute Care, Mental Health and Innovation, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
• Bill Scott, CPhO Scotland
• Malcolm Wright (CEO) and Rose Marie Parr (Director of Pharmacy), NHS Education for Scotland (with HS)
• Nicola Sturgeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, Scottish Government (with HS)
• Ros Moore, Chief Nursing Officer (with responsibility for h/c professional regulation), Scottish Government Health Directorates (with HS)
• Remuneration Committee (with DR/BK)
• Board Leadership Programme Event - NHS Commissioning in London 2011-13
• Chair and Chief Executive-designate of General Optical Council (with DR)
• Keith Ridge, CPhO England
• Chair and Associate Director (Pharmacy), National Clinical Assessment Service (with DR)
• Health Professional Regulator Chairs’ dinner
• Katy Steward, Kings Fund (with DR)
• International Regulatory Affairs Symposium
• Medical Education England Workshop

1.3  Staff:
• David Howell, Director of Regulatory Services, General Optical Council (EM)
• Gail Parker, Head of Partners' Unit, Nursing & Midwifery Council (EM)
• Ben Jones, Director of Strategy and Communications, General Medical Council (HS)
• Satjit Singh, Interim CEO, General Optical Council (DR)
• Sarah North, UK Public Health Register (DR)
• National Patient Safety Forum (EM)
• Bill Riall, Associate Director (Pharmacy), National Clinical Assessment Service (DR)
• Telecons with CPhOs for England, Scotland and Wales (DR)
• Malcolm Wright (CEO) and Rose Marie Parr (Director of Pharmacy), NHS Education for Scotland (HS with RMN)
• Nicola Sturgeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, Scottish Government (HS with RMN)
• Ros Moore, Chief Nursing Officer (with responsibility for h/c professional regulation), Scottish Government Health Directorates (HS with RMN)
• Audrey Cowie, Professional Adviser - Regulation and Workforce Standards, Scottish Government Health Directorates (HS)
• NHS Commissioning Board: design workshop for the commissioning of primary care (DR)
• Company Chemists Association board meeting (DR)
• Meeting with CHRE to discuss 2010/11 performance review follow-up (DR, HL, HS, EM)
• UK Public Health Register board meeting (DR)
• Kay Dunkley, Program Coordinator for the Australian Pharmacists’ Support Service (DR, HL)
• Trevor Patterson, Chief Executive, Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (DR)
• Remuneration Committee (BK – with RMN)
• Department of Health working group on supervision and other matters (DR)
• NHS Employers (Felicity Cox, Sally Greensmith and Taryn Harding) — premises (HS)
• Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (Steve Lutener/Alastair Buxton) — premises (HS)
• Company Chemists Association (professional practice group) – premises (HS)
• British Association of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers’ Conference (HS)
• Paul Philip, General Medical Council (HS)
• Council for Health Regulatory Excellence seminar on Evolution and Devolution (HS)
• Royal Pharmaceutical Society Chair of English Pharmacy Board and Director for England -- premises (HS)
• Chair of Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK – premises (HS)
• Associate Director (Pharmacy), National Clinical Assessment Service -- premises (HS)
1.4 Council members are reminded to liaise with the office before accepting external invitations to speak on behalf of the GPhC, in order to minimise overlap and to ensure they have the most up-to-date supporting material.

2.0 Education Standards/Accreditation consultations update

2.1 76 respondents sent comments into the Education standards consultation before the closing date. As well as analysing these, staff have factored in seminar feedback and pharmacy service-user stakeholder group feedback. We held five seminars in schools of pharmacy (two in E, one in each of S, W and NI), at which every school of pharmacy in the UK was represented. We have held PPI events in England, Scotland and Wales (there were a few more to be
held at the time of writing). Communication and privacy/confidentiality are emerging as key issues.

2.2 The responses show engagement by professional bodies, the expected high interest by academia and a high level of engagement from the NHS. Relatively few pharmacists responded as individuals, which is usual for a consultation on education standards. The responses have been uniformly positive and most have endorsed our proposals explicitly. Many respondents have commented on the modernity of the standards and that they are a significant step forward. Constructive responses have been received from special interest groups.

2.3 Responses about the accreditation proposals have been positive also. No major concerns have been raised but schools are concerned about confidentiality and the possibility that league tables might be created.

3.0 Methadone exemption -- update

3.1 The GPhC has produced a Call for Evidence on the extemporaneous preparation of methadone. At the time of writing this had been passed for uploading to our website at http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/getinvolved/ and a press release was being prepared for the pharmacy press, together with an email to stakeholders to highlight and ask for responses.

4.0 Pharmacy technician registration consultation -- update

4.1 This consultation closed on 23 March. The responses are being analysed independently and we will have the analysis and a recommendation ready for Council in April.

5.0 Developing the Organisation -- update

5.1 In February we reported that the Chief Executive had met with staff to share the Executive Team’s initial thoughts on how the organisation might need to develop. Since then, following a period of engagement with staff, the Executive considered the feedback received and Duncan met again with the staff to give them an update and to reflect on the, generally positive, feedback that had been received. This feedback had confirmed the Executive in its belief that some changes would need to be made, and Duncan explained that he would be able to talk to staff about specific proposed changes the following month. Duncan also took the opportunity to give staff a briefing about the recent Enabling Excellence White Paper, together with a balance of challenge and reassurance about the messages it contained and their implications for the GPhC.
6.0 GPhC position on Modernising Pharmacy Careers (MPC) Workstream 1

6.1 The GPhC position on the MPC Workstream 1 proposals has now been finalised and submitted by the Chair on behalf of the Council. As already noted, MPC are not at the consultation stage yet so our response at this stage has been at a reasonably high level. Assuming MPC do indeed issue a consultation in due course, we would expect to respond fully to that also. Many thanks to those of you who have provided feedback.

7.0 Customer contact centre

7.1 Our new Customer Contact Centre went live in Regulatory Services on Monday 14 March. There are five customer service staff in the contact centre, taking all front line calls into the area, and the centre has also taken ownership of the GPhC Info mailbox.

The approach seems to be working well; the contact centre has received over 1,200 calls in its first week of existence, and, despite initial system problems on the first morning, as the new system settled down, it has still managed to exceed its performance targets.

8.0 IT strategy

8.1 As a new organisation we need to develop our own information and communications (ICT) strategy to facilitate the needs of the business as we move forward.

8.2 To develop this strategy we first need to evaluate the fitness for purpose of the current ICT environment and services inherited from the RPSGB. With the forthcoming relocation expected in the second half of 2012, it is important that we complete the review within the next few months. This is so we can identify the systems or processes we need to have in place by the time of the move, although the move forms only one factor in the strategy which will continue to develop in accordance with the Business Plan over the next few years.

8.3 We have appointed Deloitte to conduct the review and evaluate our business needs to help define the future strategy. The purpose of the review will be to define any shortcomings and opportunities for improvement, and develop, evaluate and identify options for future developments. Deloitte consultants have been meeting with various GPhC staff members over the last few weeks to assess our current systems and needs (including management information needs).
9.0 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI)

9.1 In order to progress the equality scheme and action plan agreed by Council, staff have produced proposals for:

i) an EDI leadership group, comprising the Chief Executive, the EDI lead and 4 other staff members. This group will have the remit of focussing GPhC staff leadership on the issue of E&D, providing an ongoing focus on the drive for delivery, awareness and training, and steering the action planning, helping to clear delays and consider resources and priorities.

ii) a primarily virtual EDI reference group, comprising representatives from external E&D network groups, external E& D professionals and GPhC staff equality and diversity champions. This group will build on relationships already established with external networks, to provide GPhC’s standing arrangements for obtaining feedback, advice, challenge and support.

9.2 We had been aiming to have an update on the Equality and Diversity Scheme in April; this has now been re-scheduled for the June meeting.

10.0 Lease for 129 Lambeth Road/future location

10.1 A two year, fixed-term lease for occupation of our current premises has been completed and signed by the Chair and Chief Executive & Registrar on behalf of the Council.

10.2 In reviewing the lease we have been advised on commercial terms, equivalent market rates etc. by our retained property consultants EVA Grimley and on legal matters by our retained solicitors Capsticks. The terms were regarded as reasonable by our professional advisers, given the short-term nature of the tenancy. All negotiations have been conducted with goodwill and cooperation that was present throughout the transition.

10.3 EVA Grimley are also advising us on our acquisition of a new site by the time the lease expires. They have recently helped us conduct a preliminary survey of available properties as alternatives to our current location.

11.0 April evening workshop

11.1 This workshop will run from 5-7pm on 13 April in Committee Rooms 1&2 on the first floor. Topics will include the premises project and the White Paper “Enabling excellence”. Council members will need to make their own arrangements for dinner following the workshop.
12.0 Legal services recruitment

12.1 We remain on target to enter into new contracts by the beginning of April.

12.2 Welsh Language Scheme consultation

12.3 The GPhC is holding a consultation for 12 weeks to 17 June 2011 seeking views on our draft Welsh Language Scheme. The GPhC is required to prepare a Welsh Language scheme which outlines the proposed measures it will take to ensure that the Welsh Language is treated on a basis of equality, where it conducts public business in Wales, and is appropriate in the circumstances and reasonably practicable, as outlined in the Welsh Language Act 1993 (‘the Act’). This document sets out the Council’s draft Welsh Language Scheme and invites the views of stakeholders on the proposals. Press notices will be appearing as prescribed by the Welsh Language Board.

13.0 GMC Tribunal consultation

13.1 The General Medical Council is seeking views on its plans to establish a Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service, which would take responsibility for running hearings and for the decisions panels make: http://www.gmc-uk.org/concerns/8576.asp#adj. The aim is for the new Tribunal Service to be separate from the GMC’s work in investigating cases and presenting them to the Tribunal. This consultation closes on 13 June 2011.

14.0 Consultations

14.1 A list of active and new consultations with which the organisation is or is not engaging is included at Appendix A.

Recommendation

The Council is asked to note this paper.

Duncan Rudkin, Chief Executive & Registrar
General Pharmaceutical Council
duncan.rudkin@pharmacyregulation.org, tel 020 3365 3501

24 March 2011
### Active and new consultations (week ending 18/3/2011)

**New consultations, and those on which a final office decision is pending, are in italics.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>By</th>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberating the NHS: developing the healthcare workforce</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>This consultation document sets out proposals to establish a new framework for developing the healthcare workforce and seeks views on the systems and processes that will be needed to support it. <a href="http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_122590">http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_122590</a></td>
<td>31 March 2011</td>
<td>Damian Day (Lead)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognition of pharmacist qualifications awarded in the European Economic Area and Switzerland: removing the '3 year rule' from new pharmacies: consultation</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>This consultation seeks views on the proposal to remove the restriction on pharmacists registered to practise in GB, by virtue of a qualification awarded by a European Union State, other than the UK, Iceland, Norway, Lichtenstein or Switzerland, being the responsible pharmacist in a pharmacy which has been registered for less than three years. <a href="http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_123392">http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_123392</a></td>
<td>7 April 2011</td>
<td>Hugh/Hilary (Lead)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reform of the fitness to practise procedures at the GMC - changes to the way we deal with cases.</td>
<td>General Medical Council</td>
<td>This consultation considers proposals for changes to the way we deal with fitness to practise cases at the end of an investigation. It contains proposals for a faster mechanism for taking action in relation to doctors who breach our standards than our current approach of sending the majority of cases to a public hearing. <a href="https://gmc-consultation.net/econsult/consultation_Dtl.aspx?consult_Id=161&amp;status=2">https://gmc-consultation.net/econsult/consultation_Dtl.aspx?consult_Id=161&amp;status=2</a></td>
<td>11 April 2011</td>
<td>Hugh Simpson (Lead)/ Recommendation not to respond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public consultation (ARM 74) - Request to reclassify Crampex from Pharmacy (P) to General Sales List (GSL)</td>
<td>Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory agency (MHRA)</td>
<td>Consultation ARM 74 seeks your views on the reclassification of Crampex Tablets from P to GSL. <a href="http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Consultations/Medicinesconsultations/ARMs/ARM74">http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Consultations/Medicinesconsultations/ARMs/ARM74</a></td>
<td>13 April 2011</td>
<td>Recommendation not to respond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence in Care Programme - Consultation on the Pharmacy (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2011</td>
<td>Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety</td>
<td>The Order will introduce new constitutional provisions for the Council of the Society; make amendments to the Pharmacy (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 to extend its regulation making powers in relation to various regulatory matters including a statutory requirement for pharmacists to undertake continuing professional development. It also reconstitutes the Statutory Committee and extends its powers through the introduction of new fitness to practise procedures which provide for a range of sanctions. This will enable the Society to better fulfill the role of a modern regulator. <a href="http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/showconsultations?txtid=47933">http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/showconsultations?txtid=47933</a></td>
<td>22 June 2011</td>
<td>Recommendation not to respond</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>