

Council meeting 12 April 2012

04.12/C/03

Public business

Consultation on draft amendments to rules

Purpose

To provide the Council with the proposed consultation on draft amendments to the GPhC's Statutory Committees and their Advisers Rules, Fitness to Practise and Disqualification Rules, and Registration Rules.

Recommendation

The Council is asked to agree the content of the consultation on draft amendments to rules.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council has the responsibility, under the Pharmacy Order 2010, to make rules in a number of areas. Rules covering a range of regulatory functions were made in June 2010, shortly before the GPhC became operational.
- 1.2 There is now an opportunity to build on our operational experience to date and propose amendments to these rules to enable us to deliver our statutory functions more efficiently, while maintaining the quality of outcomes that the public and pharmacy professionals have a right to expect. The proposed changes are intended to give greater flexibility, to enable a faster response to changes in workload, and to provide clarity on some points. They should also achieve a clearer separation of functions between the Council and the statutory committees and greater consistency between the GPhC's rules and those of other regulators.

- 1.3 These proposals have been developed with input from Council members over the past few months. The Council is now asked to approve the consultation document on draft amendments to the rules covering: statutory committees and their advisers; fitness to practise and disqualification processes, and registration processes. It is proposed that the Council will consider the draft consultation report and the final draft amendments rules in September.
- 1.4 The detail of the proposed changes, together with the draft amendments rules, is set out in the draft consultation document at appendix 1. The Privy Council's advisers (departments of health policy officials and solicitors) are in the process of providing informal clearance to the draft rules for the purpose of consultation. Any changes resulting from this process will be reported to the Council.
- 2.0 Equality and diversity implications**
- 2.1 No negative equality and diversity implications have been identified arising from the proposed amendments. An equality assessment of the draft rules will be published on the GPhC website during the consultation.
- 3.0 Communications implications**
- 3.1 The consultation will be published on the GPhC's website. It will also be sent to a wide range of stakeholders and communicated to the pharmacy media. The consultation will run for 12 weeks and respondents will be able to respond online, by email or by post.
- 4.0 Resource implications**
- 4.1 The launch and conduct of the consultation can be covered within existing resources. The proposed changes, if agreed, should allow us to work more efficiently.
- 5.0 Risk implications**
- 5.1 Failure to consult appropriately on the proposed amendments to rules would mean that the GPhC would not be complying with its statutory duties.

Recommendation

The Council is asked to agree the content of the consultation on draft amendments to rules.

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29 March 2012