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 Listed in Appendix 1 is a non-exhaustive selection of significant meetings held during the two months since the last Council meeting.

1.2 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 Professional Standards Authority (PSA) performance review meeting

2.1 The Executive Team recently met with the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) Chief Executive and team for our annual performance review meeting.

2.2 The meeting was an opportunity for the PSA to follow up on our submission of evidence, which we made at the end of 2012, and to discuss our performance against the PSA standards for regulators. The meeting was constructive and positive and we look forward to receiving the PSA performance review report, covering all of the health professional regulators, which will be published in June.
3.0 Ministerial meetings

3.1 The Chair, Chief Executive and Director of Policy & Communications met recently with the Pharmacy Minister, Earl Howe, and a number of his officials. They were able to update the Minister on GPhC progress with the Fitness to Practise caseload, our registered pharmacy standards, the new inspection model and our scoping and planning work on education and training and the Rebalancing project.

3.2 The Chair and the Director for Scotland met with the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, Alex Neil and some of his officials last month. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to introduce the new Cabinet Secretary to the work of the GPhC and to underline our commitment to working collaboratively with the devolved administrations. We were able to update the Cabinet Secretary on key GPHC work streams, including our registered pharmacy standards, the new inspection model and our scoping and planning work on education and training and explained how we are taking these forward in Scotland. The Scottish Government’s ongoing review of pharmaceutical care and the Francis Inquiry were also discussed.

4.0 Rebalancing update

4.1 The GPhC took part in a Department of Health (DH) stakeholder briefing event to raise awareness of the UK Chief Pharmaceutical Officers’ initiative to review the balance between medicines legislation and statutory regulation in pharmacy. The GPhC Chief Executive was also one of a number of speakers at an All Party Pharmacy Group (APPG) meeting on 28 January 2013 to find out more about progress on decriminalising dispensing errors. The Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for England confirmed that the plan is to resolve the issue of dispensing errors as early as possible through joint work in the rebalancing programme.

4.2 At both the APPG meeting and the DH rebalancing meeting it was encouraging to hear the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer say that Government recognises the very significant progress of the GPhC.

4.3 Ken Jarrold has been appointed by the DH to chair the programme board for the rebalancing initiative. The GPhC Chair, Chief Executive and other GPhC staff have met Ken to discuss the organisation’s contribution to this work.

4.4 Council members discussed the GPhC’s approach to rebalancing, and how the Council will engage with this work, at a workshop meeting on 14 March 2013.
Council members informally endorsed the approach taken to date and considered that the GPhC should be represented on the programme board at a senior level. In addition, arrangements should be made for the GPhC’s representative on the board to report back regularly to the Council.

5.0 Inspection framework

5.1 The inspection decision framework is being amended following the second round of professional sounding board events in readiness for action learning testing to commence late April. There has been some minor shifting of outcome indicators from minimum standards to good in recognition of the fact that minimum standards need to reflect a more realistic position for pharmacies.

5.2 Professional sounding board events have been used to inform the further development of the draft improvement and enforcement approach.

5.3 Engagement with the public and patients through workshop events has enabled us to develop a draft reporting framework. Examples of what the summary reports might look like are currently being worked up.

5.4 Outline IT requirements for an interim system to support the new inspection model have been defined and a challenge session conducted with the Audit Commission, who have been in a similar position of having to develop their IT systems alongside development of the regulatory framework.

5.5 More information on progress with the registered pharmacies project is provided in a separate paper on today’s agenda. A meeting with key stakeholders was held on March 20th to discuss progress, test emerging aspects of the inspection framework and receive concerns. The Chair, Tina Funnell and Ray Jobling joined the Chief Executive and other members of the senior management team at the event.

6.0 Inspection Development Assurance Group (IDAG)

6.1 The first IDAG meeting took place on 31/1/13. This is the first member assurance group to be set up; it gave Council members an opportunity to scrutinise the development of the new inspection model and progress made against the action plan, as well as providing helpful areas for further consideration. Minutes of decisions have been circulated and a summary report is being presented to Council as part of the update paper on the registered pharmacies project.

7.0 Lean consulting tender for review of FtP processes

7.1 We have completed a tendering exercise to appoint external consultants to help
take us through an end-to-end ‘lean’ review of our fitness to practise processes. This majors not only on process improvement but also on skills transfer to our own staff.

8.0 Patient/public focus group on their experiences of buying medicines

8.1 In late February, we held a focus group in London with 36 patients and members of the public. Working with research company, Community Research, and with the help of our own trained facilitators, we explored their experiences of buying medicines, particularly what they liked and what they thought could be improved. This work will inform the development of information and further thinking on our new approach to regulation and inspection. We expect a formal report on this session in late March.

9.0 Public perceptions survey

9.1 After carrying out a tender exercise, we have commissioned Ipsos MORI to conduct quantitative research seeking to explore awareness of and perceptions of a) the GPhC and its key functions and b) core communications products and activities. We will benchmark a set of questions so we can track progress in future (annually or bi-annually). This work will inform our communications and engagement planning and activity going forward. The survey will be conducted in May, with a formal report completed by early July.

10.0 Professional Standards Authority (PSA) symposium

10.1 The Chair and Chief Executive recently attended the PSA Symposium in Windsor. The discussions focussed on early reactions to the Francis report, and key points were fed into the Council's discussion on this topic at the March workshop.

11.0 GPhC Education Planning Group

11.1 The new Education Planning Group met for the first time on the 18th March. It considered the GPhC's plans in four broad areas:
1. Education and training of pharmacists,
2. Education and training of pharmacy technicians,
3. Pharmacist pre-registration and
4. Pre-registration assessment.
Most of the points discussed had been covered in Council’s education workshop on the 14th March. There was broad agreement with the GPhC's current plans - as detailed in the Corporate Plan - but the group added another action: to re-examine the GPhC's QA process for pharmacy technician education.

11.2 The group agreed that the most immediate priority was to revise the learning outcomes in Future Pharmacists (standards for the initial education and training
of pharmacists). This is to ensure that they fully reflect recent changes in practice.

11.3 **Review of statutory committee guidance**

11.4 An approach to the review of our statutory committee guidance has been agreed internally. We have already taken the initiative and have contacted all other healthcare regulators to explore the possibility of joint working/learning from experience as many others are either about to embark on a similar review or have just concluded one. It is likely that either before, or during, the consultation we will hold an event for all regulators on the review. We will now proceed with a programme of stakeholder engagement that will include individual and collective meetings with key stakeholders as well as some workshops with panel members and Council. The consultation will take place in summer of this year.

12.0 **March Council workshop**

12.1 The Council met for a workshop on 14 March. At the workshop the Council:

- Reviewed the risk register and considered the risk strategy.
- Discussed the Francis Inquiry and the Council’s response to the issues it raises
- Discussed the rebalancing initiative
- Received information on the Council’s education and training functions and processes

13.0 **Professional Standards Strategy Board**

13.1 The Chief Executive has been asked by DH to join their Professional Standards Strategy Board, which oversees their professional standards work programme. The main topic of discussion at the first meeting was the Francis report.

14.0 **PSA report on the General Dental Council**

14.1 The Professional Standards Authority (when known as CHRE) was asked to advise the Department of Health on two matters relating to the General Dental Council. The ensuing report\(^1\) contains some recommendations for all the health professions regulators. We have been taking most of the actions for some time; however, we will consider the recommendations and prepare a paper that will come to a Council meeting later this year to enable the Council to assure itself that any further actions required are in hand.

15.0 *Fit and Proper? Governance in the public interest*

15.1 The Professional Standards Authority recently published a paper setting out some reflections on governance. *In Fit and Proper? Governance in the public interest*² the Authority argues for the need to ensure that board members have the right moral values and behaviour for public office, as well as technical competence. It also argues for a return to a clear sense of responsibility of board members for the performance of their organisations.

15.2 This paper has been taken into account in the preparation of the draft Behavioural Framework, which Council will be considering at this meeting.

16.0 Consultations

16.1 A list of active consultations with which the organisation is or is not engaging is included at Appendix 1.

**Recommendation**

The Council is asked to note this paper.

*Duncan Rudkin, Chief Executive & Registrar*

*General Pharmaceutical Council*

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22 March 2013

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Appendix 1

List of Meetings

Listed below 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), Bernard Kelly (BK), Hugh Simpson (HS), Elaine Mulingani (EM), Claire Bryce-Smith (CBS):

Chair:
- Academic Health Science Networks - Promoting Innovation – Breakfast Seminar
- Chair of Re-balancing Project Board – update meeting (with DR, HS)
- Chair & Chief Executive, Dispensing Doctors Association (DDA) – meeting (with DR)
- Pharmacy Public Health Forum Meeting
- Director of Pharmacy, NHS Education for Scotland – update meeting
- Chief Executive, Community Pharmacy Scotland (CPS) – update meeting
- Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, Scottish Government – introductory meeting
- Regulatory Unit staff, Scottish Government - meeting
- Chair & Chief Executive, General Dental Council (GDC) and Chair & Chief Executive General Optical Council (GOC) – meeting (with DR)
- Professional Standards Authority (PSA) Symposium (with DR)
- Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health – meeting (with DR, HS)
- Field Fisher Waterhouse Seminar - Report of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry (with DR)
- King’s Fund Francis Inquiry Conference
- Modernising Pharmacy Careers (MPC) Board meeting
- Chair, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) – Sir Gordon Duff, introductory meeting
- Director Education and Quality & Head of Operations and Development, Health Education England (HEE), Assistant Director of Education and Standards, Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) and Director of Education, General Medical Council (GMC) – meeting to discuss working with HEE
- Transition Phase & Inspection Model Key Stakeholder Meeting (DR, HS, CBS)
- President & Director of England, Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) – update meeting (with DR)

Staff:
- Chair of Re-balancing Project Board (DR, RMN, HS)
- Chair & Chief Executive, Dispensing Doctors Association (DDA) – meeting
(DR with RMN)

- Pharmacy Voice Conference – SMART ‘Self Care: At the tipping point?’
  Panellist (DR)
- Chief Executive, Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) – update meeting (DR)
- Lawyer, Law Commission – update meeting (DR)
- Chair & Chief Executive, General Dental Council (GDC) and Chair & Chief
  Executive General Optical Council (GOC) – meeting (DR with RMN)
- Professional Standards Authority (PSA) Symposium (DR with RMN)
- Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health – meeting (DR with RMN, HS)
- Field Fisher Waterhouse Seminar - Report of the Mid Staffordshire NHS
  Foundation Trust Public Inquiry (DR with RMN)
- Department of Health (DH) Professional Standards liaison regular meeting
  (DR, CBS, EM, HS)
- Professional Standards Board Meeting (DR)
- Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) – Annual
  Lecture
- Regulators Liaison Group Meeting (DR)
- Transition Phase & Inspection Model Key Stakeholder Meeting (DR with
  RMN, HS, CBS)
- Chief Executive, National Voices – meeting (DR)
- Chief Executive, Professional Standards Authority (PSA) – update meeting
  (DR)
- President & Director for England, Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) –
  update meeting (DR with RMN)
- Controlled Drugs Guidance Group meeting (CBS)
- Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Wales – meeting (CBS)
- Chief Pharmacist, Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) – update
  meeting (CBS)
- Group Manager, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
  (MHRA) Policy Division – update meeting (HS)
- Public Services Programme Manager, Age UK – meeting (HS)
- Associate Parliamentary Health Group (APHG) event - Regulating health
  and care professionals; keeping patients safe (HS)
- Education Policy Planning meeting (HS)
- King’s Fund event – Moving Care Closer to Home (HS)
- Director of Policy and Care Improvement, Diabetes UK –meeting (HS)
- Director of Regulatory Development, Care Quality Commission (CQC) –
  meeting (HS)
# Active and new consultations (week ending 22/03/13)

*Consultations on which an office decision is pending are shown 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>UKPHR Code of Conduct</td>
<td>UK Public Health Register</td>
<td>UKPHR is a voluntary register of public health specialists. It is seeking comments on its draft code of conduct.</td>
<td>30/04/13</td>
<td>Being Reviewed. Paul Fredericks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care and Associated Professions (Indemnity Arrangements) Order 2013: A consultation paper</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>Consultation on legislation that would mean all regulated healthcare professionals have to hold indemnity or insurance to practise. This Draft Order will implement Article 4(2)(d) of the European Union Directive 2011/24/EU on the application of patients’ rights in cross-border healthcare (the Directive). The Directive requires Member States to have systems of professional liability insurance or similar arrangements in place in relation to provision of cross border healthcare. <a href="http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2013/02/indemnity-i/">http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2013/02/indemnity-i/</a></td>
<td>17/05/2013</td>
<td>Responding. Martha Pawluczyk Lead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation on proposed amendments to the Pharmacy (Northern Ireland) Order 1976</td>
<td>DHSSPS Northern Ireland</td>
<td>This consultation is about proposed amendments to the Pharmacy (Northern Ireland) Oder 1976. The amendments propose to implement the requirements of Article 4(2)(d) of the Directive 2011/24/EU. This Article relates specifically to the requirement for member states to have systems of professional liability insurance or similar arrangements in place in relation to provision of cross border healthcare. <a href="http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/showconsultations?txtid=61889">http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/showconsultations?txtid=61889</a></td>
<td>30/05/13</td>
<td>Decision not to respond. Reviewed by Martha Pawluczyk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation on draft conditions of practice guidance</td>
<td>General Osteopathic Council</td>
<td>Consultation on the draft conditions of practice guidance which is designed to enhance consistency in decision making. <a href="http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/about/our-work/consultations-events/Conditions-of-practice-guidance/">http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/about/our-work/consultations-events/Conditions-of-practice-guidance/</a></td>
<td>31/05/13</td>
<td>Decision not to respond. Reviewed by Jerome Mallon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation on draft indicative sanctions guidance</td>
<td><strong>General Osteopathic Council</strong></td>
<td>Consultation on the draft indicative sanctions guidance which is designed for the GosC Professional Conduct Committee to consider when imposing a sanction, in order to improve consistency, transparency and enhance the quality of decisions about sanctions. <a href="http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/about/our-work/consultations-events/Indicative-sanctions-guidance/">http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/about/our-work/consultations-events/Indicative-sanctions-guidance/</a></td>
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