Public business

Council meeting 13 September 2012

Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence performance report

Purpose
To provide Council with an update on the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) performance review process.

Recommendation

The Council is asked to note this paper.

1.0 Performance review 2011-12

1.1 The CHRE performance review report for 2011-12, which contains CHRE’s reports on the performance of the nine health professional regulators, was laid before Parliament on 28 June. The report is available at www.chre.org.uk

1.2 The CHRE overall assessment is that the GPhC has met all of the Standards of Good Regulation apart from one, which relates to the timely progression of Fitness to Practise cases. However, their report noted that we are taking appropriate action to improve our case progression.

1.3 As the council knows, we set ourselves an ambitious target of dealing with all legacy cases by September 2012. As reported elsewhere on this agenda, we expect to have disposed of all but 16 of those cases within that timeframe. There are specific reasons why it has not been possible to dispose of those cases within target time; we expect that ten are likely to be completed by the end of December, with the remaining six being carried forward to 2013.
1.4 To ensure that we maintained a proper focus on progressing GPhC cases, we set an equally ambitious target to deal with cases within 15 months of receipt. As reported elsewhere, 91% of GPhC cases fall within the target time.

1.5 We have streamlined processes to improve the timeframe within which low risk issues are dealt with and the cost of dealing with those cases, although having accepted CHRE’s recommendation to seek medical assessments in all cases concerning drugs or alcohol misuse, those cases now progress more slowly and are more costly.

1.6 We have established our quality assurance functions and are now in a position to set quality indicators to sit alongside timeliness. We are seeking advice from an external regulatory expert to help us frame quality indicators for FtP hearings.

1.7 We have provided extensive training to staff and committee members and are supplementing this with what will be a regular bulletin to update committee members on recent developments.

1.8 We are exploring the scope for conducting some IC meetings by telephone conference to improve the timeliness of IC decisions and bear down extensively on cost.

2.0 **Performance review 2012-13**

2.1 We continually review progress against the commitments we made during 2011-12. In addition, we regularly monitor progress against those issues which the CHRE has indicated that it will want to follow up on in the 2012-13 performance review.

2.2 The CHRE evidence submission template for the 2012-13 performance review will be sent to regulators at the end of September for completion by 3 December.

3.0 **CHRE transition to the Professional Standards Authority**

3.1 The CHRE is working towards becoming the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care (PSA). It will assume this name and identity on 1 December 2012. In the period leading up to the 1 December, CHRE will gradually assume new functions as were outlined in the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

4.0 **Equality and diversity implications**

4.1 There are no equality and diversity implications in this paper.
5.0 Communications

4.1 We promoted the publication of the CHRE performance report on our website and through media channels.

6.0 Resource implications

5.1 The activities referred to at paragraphs 1.4 to 1.8 are all covered within existing budgets. There are no other resource implications directly associated with this paper or publication of the CHRE performance report.

7.0 Risk implications

6.1 There are reputational risks for the GPhC if we fail to respond adequately to recommendations made by CHRE. We have put in place effective monitoring procedures to ensure we are keeping track of those recommendations and commitments made in our submissions.

Recommendation

The Council is asked to note this paper.

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