Council meeting 10 February 2010

Public business

Chief Executive & Registrar’s update

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 since the last Council meeting. Initials are as follows: Duncan Rudkin (DR), Hilary Lloyd (HL), Bernard Kelly (BK), Hugh Simpson (HS), Elaine Mulingani (EM):

1.2 Chair:

- 2011 School of Pharmacy lecture – Professor Nick Barber and Alex Gourlay of Boots
- Medical Education England (MEE) workshop to discuss the White Paper Consultation on education and training commissioning arrangements
- Board Leadership Programme – “Developments in the regulation of professionals” with Niall Dickson
- CHRE Symposium (with DR)
- Katy Steward of King’s Fund – to discuss Council meeting observation (with DR)
- Westminster breakfast meetings, including “Reforming the NHS...direction, priorities and timetable”
- Modernising Pharmacy Careers (MPC) board meeting
1.3 **Staff:**

- Michael Holden, CEO, National Pharmacy Association (NPA) (DR)
- UK Public Health Register (UKPHR) board meeting (DR)
- Visit to Healthy Living Pharmacy Project in Portsmouth (HS)
- CHRE Symposium (DR – with RMN)
- Regulation seminar – Bevan Brittan (HS)
- Olivia Timbs—Pharmaceutical Journal (HS)
- Keith Ridge -- Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Department of Health (DH) (DR)
- GPhC/DH liaison meeting (DR, BK, HL, HS)
- Trevor Patterson, CEO, Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI) (DR)
- Japanese Pharmacy Association (presentation) (EM)
- Bill Scott -- Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for Scotland (DR)
- Alex McKinnon -- RPS Director for Scotland (DR)
- Scotland Bill Committee (DR)
- Harry McQuillan -- CEO, Community Pharmacy Scotland (DR)
- Professor John Shaw, Pharmacy Council of New Zealand (DR)
- Diane Leicester, Pharmacist Support (DR)
- Katy Steward of King’s Fund – to discuss Council meeting observation (DR with RMN)
- NCAS Annual Conference (DR)
- Chief Executives’ Steering Group (DR)
- Meeting with DH & RPS re: supervision & premises standards (DR)
- Boots UK Patient Safety Conference (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 Pharmacy assistants

2.1 In April 2010, Council approved a policy on minimum training requirements for dispensing/pharmacy assistants and medicines counter assistants. This policy related to the knowledge and understanding of the S/NVQ Pharmacy Services S/NVQ level 2. This qualification has since been renamed the Pharmacy Service Skills NVQ level 2 (QCF) and the formatting of the units for this award have changed. As such we have made consequential changes to the policy to remain in line with the updated units of this qualification. The updated qualification affects the units completed by a dispensing/pharmacy assistant as well as those relevant to a medicines counter assistant. A copy of our updated policy is available on request.

3.0 Clarification on the position of RPS guidance

3.1 The RPSGB, in its previous role as both the professional and regulatory body for pharmacy, produced a library of guidance and information for pharmacy professionals. The documents produced included fact sheets, guidance on switches from Prescription Only Medicine to Pharmacy medicine, resource tools and audit tools.

3.2 In addition, the RPSGB produced detailed standards to support its Code of Ethics. For example, it had standards about prescription collection services and delivery services, amongst other things.

3.3 We understand the RPS will continue to issue detailed professional advice guidance on how to provide specific services, such as those mentioned above.

3.4 The GPhC approach to standards and regulatory guidance is set out in our regulatory standards policy. We will use a number of methods to identify any specific regulatory guidance that we need to issue, as opposed to the professional support that is more suited to a professional body or other membership organisation. For example, we will use the enquiries we receive, the complaints we receive and the investigations we conduct. We will also be undertaking some research into what registrants would like to see us produce and what their needs are in terms of regulatory standards and guidance.

4.0 GPhC policies

4.1 During the transition, a list of policies had been identified as being necessary for the GPhC to have in place in order to operate as an organisation in its initial phase. Staff have undertaken a review and can confirm that all these are all now in place.
5.0  **The Pharmaceutical Journal**

5.1  The PJ is no longer providing us with complimentary copies of the Journal and, due to the significant costs involved, we are not able to provide copies for those GPhC Council members who are not members of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. We are negotiating with the PJ and other publications such as the Chemist & Druggist and the Health Service Journal to ensure an appropriate level of organisational access. This will enable effective monitoring and ensure we keep Council Members informed of relevant coverage; for example, through the recently revived fortnightly email news bulletin.

6.0  **Consultations**

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

7.0  **Developing the organisation**

7.1  Duncan recently met with all staff to update them on progress with the development of the GPhC strategy and business plan, to highlight the challenges that the organisation will need to tackle over the coming year and to seek the views of staff members. He also shared the Executive Team’s initial thoughts on how the organisation might need to develop in order to rise to these challenges. A programme of communication and engagement with staff is planned on this subject between now and mid-April.

**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*

26 January 2011
# Active and new consultations (week ending 21/1/2011)

*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.</td>
<td>31 March 2011</td>
<td>Hilary Lloyd (Lead Director)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of the Notifiable Occupations Scheme</td>
<td>Home Office</td>
<td>The Home Office is conducting a review of the Notifiable Occupations Scheme (NOS). The review will consider the extent to which the scheme is still necessary or desirable, whether it should be scrapped or amended and whether the current scheme remains legally defensible.</td>
<td>1 February 2011</td>
<td>Hilary Lloyd (Lead Director)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognition of pharmacist qualifications awarded in the European Economic Area and Switzerland: removing the '3 year rule' from new pharmacies: A paper for 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.</td>
<td>7 April 2011</td>
<td>Hugh Simpson/Hilary Lloyd (Lead Directors)</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.</td>
<td>11 April 2011</td>
<td>Hugh Simpson (Lead Director)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Review of Medicines Act 1968: Informal consultation on issues relating to the product licences of right (PLR) regime and homeopathy

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

The MHRA is undertaking a review of UK medicines legislation. As part of this review, we have been looking at the provisions which relate to the product licences of right (PLR) regime and homeopathy. http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Consultations/Medicinesconsultations/Othermedicinesconsultations/CON105929

Consultations reviewed are those received by the GPhC and those on the following consultation websites:

- Care Quality Commission http://www.cqc.org.uk/yourviews/consultations.cfm
- Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence http://www.chre.org.uk/media/18/
- Department for Business, Innovation and Skills http://www.bis.gov.uk/consultations
- Department for Education http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations
- General Medical Council https://gmc-consultation.net/econsult/default.aspx
- Health Professions Council http://www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/consultations/
- Nursing and Midwifery Council http://www.nmc-uk.org/Get-involved/Consultations/
- Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman http://www.ombudsman.org.uk/improving-public-service/reports-and-consultations
- Prescription Medicines Code of Practice Authority http://www.pmcpa.org.uk/
- Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education http://www.qaa.ac.uk/
- The Scottish Government http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current
- Veterinary Medicines Directorate http://www.vmd.gov.uk/