Public business

Review of the Council’s Values

Purpose
To review the values adopted by the Council for itself.

Recommendation

The Council is asked to confirm its adoption of the values in Appendix 1 and undertake to apply them in the exercise of its role as the governing board of the GPhC.

1.0 Background

1.1 The values adopted by the Council for itself form an essential foundation of the GPhC’s governance & assurance framework. They are an integral part of the context that the Council and the organisation work within. In January 2010, the Council agreed the values it wished to adopt for itself and undertook to review them after a year. This paper provides an opportunity for that review.

1.2 The Council’s values are at Appendix 1. These are the Council’s own values as the governing board of the GPhC. As such, they are distinct from the vision and values of the organisation which describe the type of regulator that the GPhC aims to be. The vision and values of the organisation were set out in the Strategic Planning paper (12.10/C/01) considered by the Council in December 2010:

‘We have a vision to secure the confidence of patients, the public and pharmacy professionals by being a healthcare regulator that demonstrates effectiveness and efficiency and supports innovation in delivering its functions. We will ensure that our values are at the heart of everything we do and as a regulator we will endeavour to:
a) be focussed on improvement
b) be responsive to change
c) develop policies that are inclusive
d) be independent and fair
e) demonstrate respect for others
f) be proportionate.

This vision and the accompanying values will continue to inform our future planning.’

The vision and values above are not being reviewed at this time, as they form part of the ongoing work on strategic planning.

1.3 The concise statement of values adopted by the Council for itself a year ago remains appropriate and it is proposed this continues unchanged.

2.0 **Equality and diversity implications**

2.1 The Council’s values form part of the integrated governance and assurance framework agreed by the Council in March 2010. The GPhC’s Equality and Diversity Scheme is another essential element of that framework, all aspects of which will be informed by the Council’s values.

3.0 **Communications implications**

3.1 The Council’s values will inform its communications strategy and will themselves be communicated as part of the governance and assurance framework.

4.0 **Resource implications**

4.1 There are no specific resource implications arising from this paper.

5.0 **Risk implications**

5.1 The adoption and application of the Council’s values helps to ensure that the Council and the organisation remain focussed on our statutory purpose and the public interest. This is a vital component in managing risks relating to the GPhC’s functions and its reputation.

**Recommendation**

The Council is asked to confirm its adoption of the values in Appendix 1 and undertake to apply them in the exercise of its role as the governing board of the GPhC.
Appendix 1

Values of the GPhC Council

The Council adopts the following values and undertakes to apply them in the exercise of its role as governing board of the GPhC:

1. The Nolan principles of public life:

   (1) **Selflessness**
   Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

   (2) **Integrity**
   Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

   (3) **Objectivity**
   In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

   (4) **Accountability**
   Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

   (5) **Openness**
   Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

   (6) **Honesty**
   Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

   (7) **Leadership**
   Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

These principles apply to all aspects of public life. The Committee has set them out here for the benefit of all who serve the public in any way.

[Excerpt from the Nolan Committee’s First Report on Standards in Public Life, 1995]
2. Upholding the purpose for which the GPhC has been created by Parliament – to protect, promote and maintain the health, safety and well-being of members of the public, and in particular of those members of the public who use or need the services of registrants, or the services provided at a registered pharmacy, by ensuring that registrants, and those persons carrying on a retail pharmacy business at a registered pharmacy, adhere to such standards as the Council considers necessary for the safe and effective practice of pharmacy.


4. Good personal behaviour – courtesy, listening and respect in Council members’ dealings with each other, with the organisation’s staff, and with stakeholders.