Amendment to Scheme of Delegation

Purpose
To consider an amendment to the Scheme of Delegation.

Recommendation

The Council is asked to agree to delegate approval of the Welsh Language Board annual report to the Chief Executive & Registrar under the Scheme of Delegation.

1.0 The Welsh Language Scheme

1.1 The Welsh Language Act 1993 (‘the Act’) requires the GPhC to prepare a Welsh Language scheme. The Welsh Language Scheme should outline the proposed measures it will take to ensure that the Welsh language is treated on a basis of equality, where it conducts public business in Wales, and is appropriate in the circumstances and reasonably practicable.

1.2 Following a public consultation the Welsh Language Scheme has been agreed by the Welsh Language Board.

2.0 Annual Report to the Welsh Language Board

2.1 One of our obligations in the Welsh Language Scheme is to provide the Welsh Language Board with an annual report. The annual report must be set out in accordance with the guidelines regarding the form and content of the Welsh Language Scheme prepared under the Act.

2.2 The annual report must describe the progress in implementing the measures in the Scheme against the approved timetable and standards. It should also
analyse the number and nature of any complaints and suggestions for improvements received from the public.

3.0 The Scheme of Delegation

3.1 The Council agreed the Scheme of Delegation on 21 July 2010 to facilitate the efficient and effective functioning of the GPhC. The Scheme of Delegation sets out the matters reserved for Council, those delegated to the Chief Executive and Registrar (CE&R) which may also be carried out by persons nominated by the CE&R; and matters delegated to committees and other structures.

3.2 Under the Scheme of Delegation, the CE&R has been delegated the responsibility for approving the GPhC’s Welsh Language Scheme (Sch 1, para 3(1)). However we are also required to produce an annual report for the Welsh Language Board. This is not currently in the scheme of delegation.

3.3 Delegating the approval of the annual report, which sets out how we meet our obligations in the scheme, to the Welsh Language Board to the CE&R will enable oversight for the whole Scheme and introduce a consistent approach to compliance with our obligations under the Act.

4.0 Equality & Diversity implications

4.1 The Scheme of Delegation requires that all powers delegated under it must be exercised in a manner which is consistent with relevant legislation and with Council’s policies. This should ensure that decisions and actions taken comply with legislation relating to equality and diversity and with the Council’s equality and diversity scheme.

5.0 Communications implications

5.1 The amended Scheme of Delegation will be published on the GPhC website.

6.0 Resource implications

6.1 The amendment to the Scheme of Delegation is intended to maximise the organisation’s efficiency and to ensure that resources are used effectively.

6.2 It will be covered in the existing budget.

7.0 Risk implications

7.1 Amending the scheme of delegation in this way should assist the Council in minimising the risk that might otherwise be associated with ill-defined
responsibilities for decision-making and unclear responsibilities.

Recommendation

The Council is asked to agree to delegate approval of the Welsh Language Board annual report to the Chief Executive & Registrar under the Scheme of Delegation.

Duncan Rudkin, Chief Executive and Registrar  
General Pharmaceutical Council  
duncan.rudkin@pharmacyregulation.org  0203 365 3501

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