

## Underpinning Principles for the GPhC

- 1.1 The Council should uphold the purpose of the organisation as established by Parliament, determine its values and keep both its purpose and its values in mind at all times, with mechanisms in place for annual review. (According to Art.6(1) of the Pharmacy Order, the main objective of the Council is *“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.”*)
- 1.2 The Council should determine the desired outcomes and outputs of the organisation in support of its purpose and values.
- 1.3 The Council should ensure that the organisation’s exercise of its regulatory duties is consistent with the principles of good regulation.
- 1.4 The Council should be forward and outward looking, focussing on the future, assessing the environment, engaging with the outside world, setting strategy and assuring itself as to the organisation’s risk management.
- 1.5 The Council must speak to the outside world with one voice.
- 1.6 The Council must ensure that issues of equality and diversity are considered as part of all its work.
- 1.7 The Council should decide the level of detail to which it wishes to set the organisation’s policy in relation to its desired outcomes or outputs. Any more detailed policy decisions should then be a matter for proper delegation and monitoring.
- 1.8 The means by which the desired outcomes and outputs of the organisation are achieved should be a matter for the Chief Executive and staff, provided that they are consistent with the Council’s policies and the scheme of delegation.
- 1.9 The Chief Executive should be accountable to the Council for the achievement of the organisation’s outcomes and outputs.
- 1.10 In assessing the extent to which the outcomes and outputs have been achieved, the Council must have a framework of pre-determined criteria against which performance is reported both internally and externally.

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- 1.11 The Council should ensure that the organisation and the Council itself engages effectively with key stakeholders including patients, the public, registrants, professional bodies, employers, educators, governments, the NHS, other health professional regulators and other interested groups, and be confident that it understands and takes into account their views and priorities.
- 1.12 The Council should continuously seek to develop its capacity to understand the priorities of each of these key stakeholder groups.
- 1.13 Information received and considered by the Council should support one of three goals – to allow informed decision making, to fulfil control and monitoring processes or to enable the Council to co-operate with CHRE and to be accountable to Parliaments.
- 1.14 The Council must govern itself effectively, with clear role descriptions for itself, its Chair, and its members, with agreed methods of working, an appraisal process and self-discipline to ensure that time is used efficiently.

### **Christine Gray, Head of Governance**

Reference: GG/2010/10

Effective date: June 2010

Review date: -

Agreed by: Council April 2010