Public business

Chief Executive & Registrar’s report

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 Listed in Appendix 1 is a non-exhaustive selection of significant meetings held during the two months since the last Council meeting.

1.2 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 Council member appointment process

2.1 Following a thorough tendering exercise the GPhC has selected GatenbySanderson to assist with the Council member recruitment and selection process. The selection panel, comprising Rosie Varley, Chris Martin, Radhika Seth and Bob Nicholls, met on 22 August and approved the process and corresponding documentation. The advance notice to appoint was submitted to the CHRE on 24 August and we hope to receive approval of the process in time to begin advertising in mid-September.
3.0 **Regulators’ letter of support for NHS Employers’ “Whistleblowing Charter”**

3.1 The GPhC, together with other regulators, has signed a letter of support for the “Whistleblowing Charter” which has recently been developed by NHS Employers. The Charter outlines a commitment to work more effectively together to create a just culture which is open and transparent; to ensure individuals are fully supported to report concerns and safety issues; and are treated fairly, with empathy and consideration when they have been involved in a safety incident or have raised a concern.

3.2 The letter, which has also been signed by the General Dental, Medical and Optical Councils, the Nursing and Midwifery Council and the Health and Care Professions Council, will be published alongside the Charter on the NHS Employers website. It states:

“As regulators of health professionals we welcome the statement on whistleblowing produced by NHS employers and we hope that employers throughout the NHS and beyond support and seek to implement the steps within the statement.

We are clear in our guidance that individual healthcare professionals have a duty to raise concerns when patient safety is at risk. We also recognise that the organisations in which they work must create an environment of openness and transparency where staff at all levels feel they will be supported when they do raise concerns and where management will respond.

Creating this environment is not easy and requires strong, sustained leadership from the most senior levels within organisations and we hope this public commitment by healthcare employers to support their staff in raising and dealing with concerns will be widely adopted.

We will continue to remind healthcare professionals of their duty to raise concerns and encourage them to do so where patient safety is at risk working with healthcare organisations to foster an open culture in which patient safety is paramount.”

4.0 **Pre-registration training manual and induction**

4.1 The new online pre-registration training manual and the pre-registration induction communication for all new pre-registration students were launched in July. The induction communication provides students with everything they should need to support them in their pre-registration year. It provides a welcome and introduction to pre-registration, the student’s training number, a link to the online training manual, their CPD log in details and their training record, and serves as a receipt for payment.
5.0 **New registrant welcome pack**

5.1 The GPhC will shortly be sending letters and copies of our *standards of conduct, ethics, and performance* to more than 12,500 pharmacy technicians who have registered with us since we came into operation in September 2010. Due to high demand, we have just reprinted copies of the standards.

5.2 We will also be sending new registrants’ packs to all new registrants on a monthly basis from the third week in August. The first set of packs will go to all those who successfully applied for registration after passing the assessment in June.

5.3 Called *Good Pharmacy Practice*, each pack will include a welcome letter from the registrar, a copy of the *standards of conduct, ethics and performance*, and copies of our four pieces of guidance covering patient confidentiality, obtaining consent, maintaining clear sexual boundaries and raising concerns. As new standards and/or guidance are developed, they will be included in future editions of the pack.

6.0 **Revalidation event**

6.1 GPhC held a stakeholder meeting on revalidation on 5 July involving more than 40 delegates from different areas of the profession and from representative bodies. The event was held to introduce and discuss the revalidation principles agreed by Council in January 2012. Feedback will helpfully inform discussion to support and inform the scoping of revalidation and what it may need to cover, working with different areas of the pharmacy profession on the development of regulation. GPhC council members Bob Nicholls, Sarah Brown, Celia Davies and Tina Funnell were present, and delegates from some of the healthcare regulators, and from patient representative groups, also attended.

6.2 The programme focused on breakout group discussions to build on the principles to inform the revalidation development, covering, sources of information and evidence, forms of assessment and standards for revalidation. The positive discussions and outputs from the event provided valuable insight into the issues on revalidation for different areas of the pharmacy profession and will inform further development with key audiences and stakeholders.

6.3 Key areas to consider coming out of feedback from the event included:

- the importance of open and transparent development of revalidation for ‘co-creation’ of regulation with the profession and involving patients and public;
- the need for regular communication of key messages on revalidation to
promote awareness and future thinking;
- incremental implementation drawing on relevant existing systems supported by effective testing and piloting; and
- ensuring access to effective services and support to enable registrants to meet revalidation requirements underpinned by clear roles and responsibilities on revalidation for different organisations.

7.0 **IT transition project update**

7.1 The project to transfer IT services from RPS to Advanced 365 is currently on track. Activities completed to date include the installation of two data lines at Lambeth Road and Albert Embankment, the launch of the new service desk and the migration of the majority of servers to the Advanced 365 data centre. These include applications such as Concept, CaMS and IROV, web services, such as the register search and myGPhC, and shared folders.

7.2 Remaining activities include migrating the remaining servers, transferring messaging (emails and Blackberry) and moving SharePoint sites (including the intranet and extranet). These are due to be completed by the end of September.

8.0 **GPhC and the Olympics**

8.1 The GPhC experienced no major disruption due to the Olympics. It held all Fitness to Practise hearings in Birmingham from 1-17 August, as part of its plans for managing hearings over the Olympics period.

8.2 The GPhC ensured that registrants, witnesses, advocates, and others affected by this move were made aware of this change of location at the earliest opportunity, and publicised the move through *Regulate* and the media.

9.0 **Consultations**

9.1 A list of active consultations with which the organisation is or is not engaging is included at Appendix 1.

10.0 **Prescribed bodies under Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998**

10.1 The Council is aware that we have been seeking an opportunity for the GPhC to be added to the list of prescribed bodies under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 (PIDA), to which workers may make disclosures in the public interest. This is intended to help make it easy and straightforward for people to raise concerns with us on any matters within our remit.
The Department of Health has now informed us that, subject to any objections raised, it proposes to ask the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills to include all the health professions regulators in the list of bodies prescribed under the PIDA. We have asked to be kept informed of progress on this matter.

Recommendation

The Council is asked to note this paper.

Duncan Rudkin, Chief Executive & Registrar
General Pharmaceutical Council
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23 August 2012
List of Meetings

Listed below is a non-exhaustive selection of significant meetings held during the two months since the last Council meeting. Initials are as follows: Bob Nicholls (RMN), Duncan Rudkin (DR), Hilary Lloyd (HL), Bernard Kelly (BK), Hugh Simpson (HS), Elaine Mulingani (EM):

Chair:
- Chief Executive Officer, Day Lewis Pharmacy & visit to a Day Lewis pharmacy branch
- Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) Regulators Forum (with DR)
- General Social Care Council (GSCC) Stakeholder Reception (with DR)
- Health Regulators Chief Executive’s Steering Group (with DR)
- Modernising Pharmacy Careers Board meeting
- GPhC Stakeholders Revalidation Event (with DR)
- Director & Group Manager, SG Court Pharmacy Group
- King’s Fund Board Leadership Programme Seminar - Improving health and health care in London: Who will take the lead?
- All Party Pharmacy Group - Summer Reception and AGM
- Chair, Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) Scottish Pharmacy Board – introductory meeting
- Head of Operations, Medical Education England (MEE), Director of Education, Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) and Assistant Director, Postgraduate Education, General Medical Council (GMC) & Head of Education & Registration Policy, GPhC – meeting to discuss working with HEE
- Chair, RPS English Pharmacy Board & RPS Director of England – introductory meeting (with DR)
- President & Chief Executive, RPS – update meeting (with DR)
- Co-Chair of the Modernising Pharmacy Careers Programme Board & visit to his pharmacy
- Deputy Head of School, School of Pharmacy, University of East Anglia and tour of facilities (with MPC Co-Chair)
- GPhC Fitness to Practise Hearing
- Modernising Pharmacy Careers Board Meeting (with DR)
- GMC Conference - Being fair: challenges and opportunities

Staff:
- Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for England – update meeting (DR)
- Chief Executive, Royal Pharmaceutical Society – update meeting (DR)
• Chief Executive, Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) – update meeting (DR)
• Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) Regulators Forum (DR with RMN)
• London LETB Pharmacy Advisory Group – update meeting on London LETB’s (DR)
• General Social Care Council (GSCC) Stakeholder Reception (DR with RMN)
• Health Regulators Chief Executive’s Steering Group (DR with RMN)
• Independent Pharmacy Federation reception (DR)
• Chief Executive, Company Chemists’ Association – update meeting (DR)
• GPhC Stakeholders Revalidation Event (DR, HS with RMN)
• Health Regulators Directors of Resources meeting (BK)
• Interim Medical Director, Senior Adviser and Adviser, National Clinical Assessment Service – update meeting (DR, EM)
• Associate Director Medicines Management – update meeting on NHS Commissioning Board (DR, HS, HL)
• All Party Parliamentary Group - Primary Care and Public Health Seminar (DR)
• Department of Health Quality Information Committee (HS)
• Vice-chair of the Board, Healthcare Improvement Scotland & Professor of the Practice of Pharmacy, University of London School of Pharmacy – meeting on review of NHS Pharmaceutical Care of Patients in the Community (DR)
• Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service Reception (DR)
• Modernising Pharmacy Careers (MPC) – Stakeholder Event (DR)
• President & Former President, BPSA – update meeting (DR)
• Chair, RPS English Pharmacy Board & RPS Director of England – introductory meeting (DR with RMN)
• Director, The Pharmacists’ Defence Association (HL)
• President & Chief Executive, RPS – update meeting (DR with RMN)
• Director of Professional Standards, Department of Health (DH) – update meeting (DR, HS, HL)
• Modernising Pharmacy Careers Board Meeting - presentation (DR with RMN)
• Department of Health (DH) Professional Standards liaison regular meeting (DR, EM, HS, HL)
## Appendix 2

### Consultations (week ending 17/08/2012)

Consultations 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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review of the regulation of cosmetic interventions: a call for evidence</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>Following PIP breast implant case – the review will look at how the safety of patients considering cosmetic interventions can be better ensured in future and will make recommendations to government. It will consider a wide range of issues including regulation. <a href="https://www.wp.dh.gov.uk/publications/files/2012/08/Review-of-the-Regulation-of-Cosmetic-Interventions.pdf">https://www.wp.dh.gov.uk/publications/files/2012/08/Review-of-the-Regulation-of-Cosmetic-Interventions.pdf</a></td>
<td>15/10/12</td>
<td>Priya Warner Recommendation not to respond</td>
</tr>
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<td>Management of collaborative arrangements: draft for consultation</td>
<td>QAA (Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education)</td>
<td>Consultation on revised chapter of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education. <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Pages/collaborative-arrangements-consultation.aspx">http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Pages/collaborative-arrangements-consultation.aspx</a></td>
<td>19/10/12</td>
<td>Damian Day Feeding into response through regulators’ group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protecting and promoting patients’ interests – licensing providers of NHS services</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>Consultation on proposals for new ‘Monitor’ licensing regime. Note: community pharmacy is exempt from registration with Monitor – the consultation is being reviewed to see if there are any professional issues relating to pharmacists working in hospitals. <a href="https://www.wp.dh.gov.uk/publications/files/2012/08/Licensing-consultation.pdf">https://www.wp.dh.gov.uk/publications/files/2012/08/Licensing-consultation.pdf</a></td>
<td>22/10/12</td>
<td>Martha Pawluczyk Reviewing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better Regulation: Consultation on proposals for a better regulation Bill (Scotland)</td>
<td>Scottish Government</td>
<td>Proposals for improving the way regulations are applied in practice by requiring regulators to consider the impact of their regulatory activity on business. <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/08/8403">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/08/8403</a></td>
<td>26/10/12</td>
<td>Lynsey Cleland Recommendation not to respond</td>
</tr>
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<td>A risk-based approach to quality assurance:</td>
<td>HEFCE (Higher)</td>
<td>This publication consults on the development of a more risk-based approach to the quality assurance of higher education in England.</td>
<td>31/07/12</td>
<td>Damian Day Contributed to</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consultation</td>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Link</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Contact Person</td>
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| Council member and chair appointments to professional regulatory bodies: Consultation on role of Professional Standards Authority in advising the Privy Council | CHRE                                                      | Section 227 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 makes some changes to how council members and chairs of regulatory bodies are appointed. Under these new arrangements:  
• The regulators will manage the appointment process, on behalf of the Privy Council  
• The decision to appoint an individual to a regulatory body council, as a member or as the Chair, still sits with the Privy Council.  
• CHRE, as the Professional Standards Authority, will advise the Privy Council about the process the regulator has used.  
CHRE is consulting on how the Professional Standards Authority will carry out this advisory role. [www.chre.org.uk/satellite/473](http://www.chre.org.uk/satellite/473) | 08/08/12     | Christine Gray         | not to respond             |
| Guidance on Declarations- how we consider information that applicants or registrants declare | General Optical Council                                  | The GOC is consulting on new guidance for applicants and registrants who need to make a declaration about criminal convictions, cautions and disciplinary proceedings on their registration, retention or restoration form. [http://www.optical.org/en/news_publications/consultations/](http://www.optical.org/en/news_publications/consultations/) | 16/09/12   | Martha Pawluczyk        | not to respond             |
| Standards and the Welsh language: What are your views? | Welsh Language Commissioner                               | The consultation is an opportunity to comment on the draft standards for organisations being developed by the Welsh Language Commissioner under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. The standards, which will be introduced via secondary legislation, will eventually replace Welsh language schemes. Schedule 6 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 states that the standards relating to service delivery, policy making, operational and record keeping are potentially applicable to health care regulators. [http://www.welshlanguagecommissioner.org/English/Publications/consultations/Pages/standardsandthewelshlanguage.aspx](http://www.welshlanguagecommissioner.org/English/Publications/consultations/Pages/standardsandthewelshlanguage.aspx) | 1/08/12     | Darren Hughes           | not to respond             |