

Health Professions Council
The Council, 31st May 2007

**Review of the Standards of Education and Training professional liaison:
Work plan**

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

Article 15 (1) of the Health Professions Order 2001 (“the order”) provides that:

The Council shall from time to time establish—

(a) the standards of education and training necessary to achieve the standards of proficiency it has established under article 5(2)

The attached work plan sets out the proposed timetable of activities to review the existing Standards of Education and Training.

On the 28th March 2007 the Education and Training Committee agreed the contents of the work plan and recommended approval to Council.

Decision

The Council is asked to agree the attached work plan and agree the chair of the PLG.

Background information

The Standards of Education and Training were published in 2004. They are applicable to education providers and the programmes that they run for professions currently regulated and those which may be regulated in the future.

They have been used by education providers and visitors for 3 years to assess whether a graduate from an educational programme will meet the Standards of Proficiency.

In 2006 we consulted on guidance for the Standards of Education and Training and found that some of the respondents felt there should be alterations made to the standards themselves.

Resource implications

- Research and writing of committee papers
- Consultation on new standards (if appropriate)
- Producing consultation responses document
- Type-setting and publication of new standards (if appropriate) online and in hard-copy.

Financial implications

This all forms part of the budget assumptions for 2007-08 budget

- PLG costs including travel, attendance and room hire
- Publication of new standards (if required)

Background papers

None.

Appendices

None

Date of paper

17th May 2007

Review of the Standards of Education and Training professional liaison: Work plan

1. Introduction

Terms of Reference

To make recommendations regarding the review of the Standards of Education and Training (SETs) to make sure that they:

- (i) assist in HPC's primary role to protect the public;
- (ii) are fit for purpose;
- (iii) are suitably flexible so that they are relevant to the education and training of all 13 professions;
- (iv) are appropriate for the requirements of education and training; and
- (v) are easily understood by education providers and all other relevant stakeholders.

The standards are used to assess whether a graduate from an educational programme will meet the Standards of Proficiency (SoPs). The review will ensure that the standards are fit for this purpose.

2. Plan

A Professional Liaison Group (PLG) should be established to carry out a review of the SETs. The review should take into account the views of all relevant stakeholder groups, especially visitors and education providers.

3. Plan of Activities

The PLG should meet four times to review the SETs. The PLG may also consider information electronically, between meetings, if appropriate. The Group should report back to the Council after its fourth meeting with the results of the review and its recommendations.

4. Membership

The PLG should consist of twelve members:

- 7 x members of Council (4 registrant and 3 lay members);
- 2 x representatives of education providers/organisations; and
- 3 x representatives of professional bodies.

It is suggested that the Council approach the Allied Health Professions Federation and the Federation of Healthcare Science to nominate one individual from each body. It is also suggested that the Council should seek a representative from a body that is not affiliated to either of the preceding bodies such as the College of Operating Department Practitioners, the Association for Perioperative Practice or the British Paramedic Association.

The PLG may also wish to consider ways of taking account of the views of students, placement providers and patients.

5. Chair

This should be a Council member.

6. Suggested Timetable for the Professional Liaison Group

The following is a suggested timetable for the PLG's work. The PLG will be responsible for agreeing any subsequent amendments to the timetable.

Due to the anticipated length of time it will take for the workplan to be approved by both ETC and Council and for initial work to take place, it is proposed that the PLG should be formed in September 2007 and proceed with a work plan as follows:

September 2007 - First meeting of the PLG

All relevant professional bodies will be invited to send a representative.

November 2007 - Second meeting of PLG

This meeting will be to get input and feedback from education providers, visitors and other relevant stakeholders.

January 2008 - Third meeting of PLG

First draft of the new standards.

February 2008 - Fourth meeting of PLG

Second draft of the new standards.

26th March 2008 - Education and Training Committee meeting

Results of the PLG presented to the Committee

29th May 2008 - Council meeting

Draft presented

July 2008 – September 2008

Consultation on the revised Standards of Education and Training (if necessary)

December 2008 - Education and Training Committee meeting

Committee considers draft consultation responses document and makes decisions regarding final draft of the standards.

March 2009 - Council meeting

New standards ratified.