

Health Professions Council – 10 February 2011

Reports from Council representatives at external meetings

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

The attached feedback forms have been received from Arun Midha and Neil Willis, reporting back from meetings at which they represented the HPC.

Decision

The Council is requested to note the documents.

Background information

None

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

The cost for attendance at conferences/meetings has been incorporated into the Council annual budget.

Background papers

None

Appendices

Copies of feedback forms

Date of paper

25 January 2011

Name of Council Member	Arun Midha
Title of event	Embracing the challenges - changing conditions
Date of event	10th and 11th November 2010
Approximate attendance at event	200+
<p>Issues of Relevance to HPC</p> <p>The conference, which is a major annual event in the calendar of the NHS in Wales, focused on developments in Wales in the health context and highlighted leading examples of best practice from across the world. It also focused on the increasingly significant differences in approaches to health delivery within the United Kingdom as a result of Devolution. The conference was addressed by the First Minister, Health and Social Services Minister and NHS Wales Chief Executive amongst others. One extremely powerful presentation was made by the Professional Head of the Social Services Improvement agency that focused in particular on the roles of many of the professions connected to HPC.</p> <p>I attended three workshops. The first was an evaluation of three NHS led condition management programmes in Wales - 'pathways to work' undertaken by two OT practitioners based in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot. This identified an intervention designed to support people claiming health related benefits to return to work. The second focused on the English white paper, its potential impact of its proposals for Wales and whether this could be seen as an opportunity or a threat to Wales. The third workshop focused on healthcare expenditure associated with smoking, alcohol misuse and obesity in Wales.</p>	

Name of Council Member	Neil Willis
Title of event	Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Council Meeting
Date of event	14 January 2011
Approximate attendance at event	30

Issues of Relevance to HPC

The new CEO Jill Rodney took up her post on the day of the IBMS Council meeting and the outgoing CEO (Alan Potter) will act as an advisor on an ad hoc basis as necessary.

Modernising Scientific Careers

The meeting had the usual busy agenda but as with previous meetings the pressing topic was the progress of the Modernising Scientific Careers initiative.

Following an update from the President, once again the MSC discussion revolved around the unknowns and the confusion caused by the lack of information, conflicting information and disinformation.

The IBMS has also had some reservations regarding the proposed curriculum for the new degree programs for Healthcare Science Practitioners, including;

1. The fact that these programmes, as they currently stand, do not directly lead to HPC registration presents a considerable risk to future employment prospects of graduates from these programs. The IBMS strongly advocates that consideration be given how the existing Standards of Proficiency for Biomedical Scientists could be met. The Institute would be pleased to work with the MSC team to deliver this outcome.
2. The constraints on the laboratory service are likely to constrict the number of available training placements
3. The course remains prescriptive in relation to the structure and timing of placements, which may make it harder to deliver given the impending service constraints. Consideration of some flexibility as to the length and timing of placements (whilst ensuring learning outcomes are still met) would greatly help both HEIs and placement providers.

There was some concern as to the process for approving programmes. It was widely known that Medical Education England or the Healthcare Science Education and Training Board are approving curricula but it also appears that they have also started to approve HEIs to deliver the programmes. The purpose of the approval was not known and as it is not for registration with the HPC, under current regulations, there was again confusion as to exactly what was happening.

There was scant knowledge of the composition of the newly formed Association of Clinical Healthcare Sciences and no information as to its *modus operandi*.

Other items included;

- the IBMS education strategy
- Training Laboratory approval
- Draft proposals for the Development and Qualifications for Biomedical Support staff

Key Decisions Taken

No key decisions taken but the IBMS will look forward to better communication on MSC issues.