

Health Professions Council – 12 May 2011

Draft annual report 2010-2011

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

The text for the front section of the Health Professions Council 2010-2011 annual report is attached. The document covers the financial year, 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

The draft annual report and accounts will be considered by the Finance and Resources Committee on 21 June 2011, the Audit Committee on 23 June 2011 and the Council on 7 July 2011. The accounts are due to be audited by the National Audit Office in May.

Decision

The Council is asked to:

- (1) approve the following document, subject to minor editorial amendments;
- (2) agree that the Audit Committee and the Finance and Resources Committee will be jointly responsible for reviewing the annual report and accounts and for agreeing any amendments.

Background information

The document has been edited by the Publications Manager in line with the HPC's house style.

At its meeting on 11 December 2008, the Council agreed that the annual report should be prepared as a word document which would meet the minimum reporting requirements set out in the Government Financial Reporting Manual.

See Council paper available on HPC website at:

<http://www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/100025E016Annualreportandaccounts.pdf>

At its meeting on 9 December 2010, the Council agreed that the annual report should include a jointly authored introduction from the Chair of Council and the Chief Executive. The Council also agreed that Council and Committee member biographies and attendance tables should be removed from the annual report. The Council agreed that attendance tables should form part of the annual paper submitted to Council on feedback of appraisals of members.

See Council paper available on HPC website at:

http://www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/1000321920101209Council_15_amendments_to_annual_report.pdf

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

The cost for the publication of the annual report has been incorporated into the Communications Budget 2011-2012.

Appendices

Text for front section of HPC 2010-2011 annual report.

Date of paper

3 May 2011.

1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011

Health Professions Council
Annual report and accounts 2010–11

Foreword from the Chair and Chief Executive and Registrar

In July 2010 the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) recognised the quality of the work of the Health Professions Council (HPC), by concluding in their performance review that the HPC “is a well organised, efficient and cost effective regulator.” We were pleased to see this recognition by the body set up to scrutinise the work of professional regulators. It is a positive reflection of the work and commitment of all who contribute to the day-to-day work of HPC.

Our fitness to practise cases involve only a very small minority of registrants (overall just 0.35% of registrants were subject to a complaint last year) yet they remain perhaps the most well-known aspect of our work. This year we have made a number of improvements to increase the accessibility of the process, including revising the information available on our website, revising guidance documents and producing an online audio-visual presentation. In the last year we have seen a reduction in the length of time taken to conclude cases and have also introduced a new case-management system to improve the way we handle cases.

In the wider world of regulation there have been a number of significant developments over the last year. Many will have an impact on us. First, the announcement in the government’s review of arms-length bodies that the General Social Care Council (GSCC) was to be abolished and social workers in England would join our Register. Social workers are regulated separately in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales so, for the first time, we will be regulating a profession on an England-only basis. We are working with the GSCC to ensure a smooth transfer of regulatory functions in 2012. At that time we are set to be re-named the ‘Health and Care Professions Council’, recognising our widening remit across health and social care and the diverse areas in which our registrants practice. We very much look forward to learning from the social work community and understanding and endorsing its contribution to the welfare of the nation.

February 2011 saw the publication of the Command Paper ‘Enabling Excellence’, which set out the government’s proposals for reforms to regulation in more detail. There will be a wider range of models for regulators, a new emphasis on limiting costs and statutory regulation will, in future, be implemented for new groups only where the risks to public safety are clearly demonstrated. Regulators are being given powers to establish voluntary registers alongside new powers for a renamed CHRE to quality-assure and accredit registers. It has also been proposed that the HPC should be responsible for registering practitioners who dispense unlicensed herbal medicines in the UK. Finally, the government has asked us to look at the options for voluntarily registering adult social care workers in England. We are busy considering what all this might mean for us, but are confident that we can meet the challenges that these developments present.

We would like to take this opportunity, once again, to thank everyone in the organisation and our Council members and Partners for all they do to make the HPC the well-organised, efficient and cost-effective regulator that it is today.

Anna van der Gaag
Chair

Marc Seale
Chief Executive and Registrar

The Health Professions Council

The Council submits its eighth annual report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2011.

Legislative and regulatory background to the Council

The Health Professions Council, a 'body corporate', was set up on 1 April 2002 by the Health Professions Order 2001. The HPC replaced the Council for Professions Supplementary to Medicine. The Council is one of nine UK statutory regulators for healthcare professionals. The Council currently regulates approximately 213,000 individuals. These are known as registrants and are members of the 15 professions regulated by the HPC. The Council is an independent, self-funding organisation. It is regarded as a public body but it is not part of the Department of Health or the NHS. Virtually all its financial costs are funded by fees from registrants. The fees are set out in the Health Professions Council (Registrations and Fees) Rules 2003 and any fee increase is subject to a consultation and must be approved by the Privy Council. In May 2005, the HPC purchased a subsidiary, 22–26 Stannary Street Limited, to acquire the adjoining land and buildings of 22–26 Stannary Street. This subsidiary was wound up in the 2010–11 financial year.

Council objectives

The principal objective of the HPC in exercising its functions is set out in the Health Professions Order 2001. The objective is "to safeguard the health and well-being of persons using or needing the services of registrants". The main functions of the Health Professions Council are to establish standards of education and training, conduct and performance for members of the relevant professions and to ensure the maintenance of those standards.

Corporate governance arrangements and organisational structure

In accordance with the governance arrangements set out in the Health Professions Order 2001, the Council has four statutory committees. These are:

- the Conduct and Competence Committee;
- the Education and Training Committee;
- the Health Committee; and
- the Investigating Committee.

The Council has also established four non-statutory committees. These are:

- the Audit Committee;
- the Communications Committee;
- the Finance and Resources Committee (which also meets as the Remuneration Committee); and
- the Fitness to Practise Committee.

Committee Membership

The three 'Practice Committees' (the Investigating Committee, the Conduct and Competence Committee and the Health Committee) are comprised of registrant and lay 'Partners' who sit on fitness to practise Panels. No Council members sit on these three committees. The majority of the members of the other committees are Council members, but the Council has appointed non-Council members to the Education and Training Committee so that it includes one member from each profession regulated by the HPC. These members were appointed in accordance with the principles set out by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

The non-Council members of the Education and Training Committee are:

Gerald Armstrong-Bednall
Jo-anne Carlyle
Helen Davis
Stephen Hutchins
Stuart Mackay
Gillian Pearson
Jeff Seneviratne
Robert Smith
Jois Stansfield
Stephen Wordsworth

The Council has a number of executive departments operating under the leadership of the Chief Executive. These departments are:

- Communications;
- Education;
- Finance;
- Fitness to Practise;
- Human Resources;
- Information Technology;
- Operations;
- Policy and Standards;
- Registration; and
- Secretariat.

Composition of the Council in 2010–11

Anna van der Gaag – Chair

Registrant members

Patricia Blackburn (until 29 July 2010) *
Malcolm Cross
John Donaghy
Morag MacKellar
Penny Renwick
Eileen Thornton
Annie Turner
Diane Waller
Neil Willis

* deceased

Lay members

Mary Clark-Glass
Sheila Drayton
Julia Drown
John Harper
Richard Kennett
Jeff Lucas
Arun Midha
Keith Ross
Deep Sagar
Joy Tweed

A Register of Interests in respect of all members is maintained. The register is published on the HPC website.

The Chief Executive and Registrar is Marc Seale.

Method of appointment of Council members

The full membership of the Council is 20 members, 10 registrant members and 10 lay members, including the Chair. The Chair may be either a registrant or a lay member. The registrant and lay members are appointed by the Appointments Commission, acting on behalf of the Privy Council. There must be at least one member (lay or registrant) from each home country within the United Kingdom.