

Council, 29 June 2015

Policy and Standards report

Executive summary and recommendations

**Introduction**

The report provides an update about the activities of the Policy and Standards Department.

**Decision**

The Council is requested to discuss the report.

**Background information**

None

**Resource implications**

None

**Financial implications**

None

**Appendices**

None

**Date of paper**

12 June 2015

## **Policy and Standards Department – Council meeting, 29 June 2015**

The following provides an update about the work of the Department.

### **Fees Rules**

- The Rules amendment order necessary to give effect to the Council's decision to increase the registration fees was laid in both Westminster and the Scottish Parliament on 29 May 2015. Subject to Parliamentary approval of those Rules, the fees are due to be increased on 1 August 2015.

### **Medicines exemptions – orthoptists**

- NHS England recently consulted on proposals to allow orthoptists to undertake post-registration training, successful completion of which would give them the entitlement to sell, supply and administer medicines from an exemption list of medicines used in treating conditions of the eye.
- At its meeting in June 2015, the Education and Training Committee agreed and recommended to the Council a consultation document on proposed standards for orthoptists exemptions, which would be used to approve education and training programmes. The Committee was advised that the consultation was planned to take place in the summer, but that timescales may be subject to change.
- Since then, the Department of Health has advised that they would prefer we did not consult until a final ministerial decision has been made about whether to progress the proposed orthoptists exemptions. They have also advised of a delay in the project timescales, with legislation now planned to be in place in May 2016.
- As a result, the Council is not asked to ratify the Education and Training Committee's decision at this meeting. The Executive will ask for Council ratification once we are much clearer about when a consultation could take place (anticipated in autumn / early winter).

### **Public health specialists**

- A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

## Registration system Rules changes

- The Registration Department is currently undertaking a major project to review all the registration processes and build a new registration system. Some of these changes will require amendments to the Registration and Fees Rules.
- At its meeting in June 2015, the Education and Training Committee (which has a statutory remit for registration matters) considered an outline paper about initial thinking on these changes.
- The Executive plans to develop a consultation document and arrange for Rules to be drafted, which would be considered by the Education and Training Committee and the Council in September 2015.
- Subject to the outcomes of a public consultation and parliamentary approval, we anticipate these changes might be in place in April 2016.

## Research

The following provides an update about all the on-going research activities managed by the Department.

- **CPD perceptions and experiences study (Qa research).** The final report of this study is being finalised. The research team are due to present their findings to the Education and Training Committee at its meeting in September 2015. Overall, the findings have been positive about the existing CPD standards and audits. Areas for possible development / improvement include reviewing standard correspondence and reviewing and revising the published guidance.
- **Costs and impact of CPD (Durham University; commissioned by the Department of Health).** A meeting has taken place with the research team to discuss the research. A literature review is underway. Interviews with groups including CPD assessors and employers and a registrant survey are planned. In the coming months the research team will collect data from CPD profiles.
- **Professionalism and conscientiousness in healthcare professionals – study two (Durham University).** This study is in its final months and has followed on from a previous qualitative study looking at the construct of professionalism. The research team have developed, piloted and validated a tool for measuring professionalism in the paramedic profession. They are also developing a generic tool which might have wider applicability.
- **Preparation for practice (Kingston University / St George's University of London; part of the SETs review).** A literature review is ongoing. An online survey of newly qualified registrants is taking place.

- **Interprofessional education (Keele University; part of the SETs review).** A literature review and a survey of education providers has been completed. Interviews / focus groups in case study sites are ongoing. A final report is due to be completed by end of August 2015.
- **Literature review on links between cautions and convictions for alcohol related offences, alcohol dependency and fitness to practise / work (King's College London).** A draft report has now been received. The final report will be considered by the Council at a future meeting.

### **Work on other standards and guidance**

- The revised standards of proficiency for practitioner psychologists and the standards for podiatric surgery are due to be published on 1 July 2015.
- The standards for podiatric surgery have now been published.
- The Education and Training Committee has agreed an outline workplan for reviewing the standards of proficiency for social workers in England. We anticipate that a consultation document will be considered by the Council in March 2016.
- The review of the standards of education and training has continued. Recent activities have included workshops with service users and carers at two universities; a workshop at the Council of Deans conference; and a meeting with the Academic Registrars Council.
- The consultation on revised standards of conduct, performance and ethics (SCPE) closed on 26 June 2015. The outcomes and a revised version of the Standards is due to be considered by the Education and Training Committee and the Council at their meetings in September 2015.
- We have started reviewing the Guidance on conduct and ethics for students, which takes the SCPE and explains what this means for students. We anticipate asking the Education and Training Committee and the Council to agree a consultation document in September and October 2015. We plan some small-scale targeted activities prior to and/or during the consultation period in order to engage with students.