

Agenda Item 13

Enclosure 10

**Health and Care Professions Council
21 September 2016**

Policy and Standards report

To note

**From Michael Guthrie, Director of Policy and
Standards**

Council, 21 September 2016

Policy and Standards Department report

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

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

Decision

This paper is to note.

Background information

None.

Resource implications

None as a result of this paper.

Financial implications

None as a result of this paper.

Appendices

None.

Date of paper

5 September 2016

Policy and Standards Department report – 21 September 2016

This paper provides an update about the work of the Department.

Consultations

- Consultation on revised returning to practice guidance – ends 7 October 2016.
- Consultation on revised standards of education and training and guidance – ends 25 November 2016.

Department resourcing

- Nicole Casey, Policy Manager, left the HCPC on 9 September 2016 for a new role at the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA). Recruitment for a replacement role has begun.

Professional Standards Authority performance review 2015-16

- We have had sight of a draft report for the performance review and returned our comments to the PSA in early September 2016.
- Once published, we will bring a paper to the Council on the outcomes.

Registration and Fees and Practice Committee Rules changes

- The amending Rules were laid in July 2016. They are due to come into force on 3 October 2016.

Research

The following provides an update about some of the research activities managed by the Department.

- **Costs and impact of CPD (Newcastle University; commissioned by the Department of Health)**
The final report has been submitted to the Department of Health and we understand it will now be peer reviewed.
- **Understanding the prevalence of fitness to practise cases about paramedics and social workers in England.**
The literature review is underway. A meeting took place with the research team in August 2016 to finalise the approach to conducting the review of a sample of fitness to practise cases. The case review is due to commence in early October 2016. The first research advisory board meeting has also taken place.

Welsh language standards

The Welsh Government is consulting on draft regulations which would enable the Welsh Language Commissioner to apply certain standards about the Welsh language to some of the professional regulators, including the HCPC.

The Welsh Government is proposing to exempt the regulators listed from some sections of the standards, as it has concluded that some of them are inappropriate for organisations that are not physically located in Wales. The remaining standards, if included in the final regulations and enforced by the Commissioner, may have an impact on the HCPC – for example, there are standards relating to producing a completely bilingual website. Once regulations are laid and come into force, we will not know which standards will definitely apply and in what timeframe until the Welsh Language Commissioner issues a compliance notice.

The Executive is drafting a response to the consultation which includes providing further information and data to inform a regulatory impact assessment. We are also in regular contact with the other regulators.

In addition, we are in the process of providing information and data to the Welsh Language Commissioner as part of demonstrating compliance with our existing Welsh Language Scheme.

We will keep the Council updated about developments in this area.