

Education and Training Committee, 16 September 2010

Consulting on amendments to the *Guidance on health and character* – revised timetable

The Policy and Standards department has been revising the *Guidance on health and character* to update it with information relevant to the removal of the health reference in January 2011. When the health reference requirement is removed, it will be replaced with a self-declaration which applicants to our Register will be required to complete with regard to their health status.

A timetable for this piece of work was presented to the Committee at its last meeting. However, since that meeting, the timetable for consultation on the amended *Guidance on health and character* has been revised due to a concurrent piece of work which may also require amendments to the guidance document.

The Fitness to Practise department is taking a paper to the October Fitness to Practise Committee to suggest a change to the current self-referral process. If the Fitness to Practise Committee agrees to these changes, further changes to the *Guidance on health and character* will be needed in addition to the proposed amendments regarding the self-declaration on health.

Because all the proposed changes would require public consultation before they could be approved by the relevant Committees and Council, it makes sense to delay the planned consultation on the guidance until a decision is made about whether further amendments to the guidance are needed. This will not affect the removal of the health reference or the registration department's work to update the guidance notes which accompany the application forms. This change should still be implemented from 1 January 2011.

The current edition of the *Guidance on health and character* will be removed from circulation when the health reference is removed. Relevant information for applicants will be placed on the website in the interim period before the revised guidance is published.

Decision

This paper is to note, no decision is required.

Background information

Council paper 7 July 2010, analysis of consultation responses:
www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10002FB520100707Council07-healthreferenceconsultation.pdf.

ETC paper 8 June 2010, analysis of consultation responses:
www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10002EA420100608ETC09-healthreference.pdf.

Council paper, 10 December 2009, consultation document approval:
www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10002BDAConsultationonremovingthehealthreference-enc10.pdf.

ETC paper 25 November 2009, consultation document approval: www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/committees/educationandtraining_archive/index.asp?id=484, (enclosure 11).

ETC paper 22 September 2009, CHRE's report of the regulator's health conditions and the impact on the HPC: http://www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/committees/educationandtraining_archive/index.asp?id=481, (enclosure 6).

Resource implications

The resource implications were outlined in the paper to Committee on 8 June 2010.

Financial implications

The financial implications were outlined in the paper to Committee on 8 June 2010.

Appendices

An amended proposed timetable is appended to the paper

Date of paper

6 September 2010

Appendix

Amended proposed timetable

This amended timetable sets out the process as it will take place if the Fitness to Practise Committee approves of the proposed changes to the self-referral process. If the Fitness to Practise Committee does not agree to those proposed changes, the consultation document for changes to the guidance for health and character will be brought to this Committee for approval at its November meeting, followed by Council approval in December, with the consultation on the guidance launched in January 2011.

16 September 2010 - Education and Training Committee – change to statutory rules (removing the health reference)

17 September 2010 - Council – change to statutory rules (removing the health reference)

October 2010 - Statutory Rules laid in time to come into force in January 2011

21 October 2010 – Fitness to Practise department submit paper to Fitness to Practise Committee with proposed changes to the self-referral process.

18 November 2010 – Education and Training Committee - Registration department seek approval of revised application forms and guidance notes

9 December 2010 - Council - Registration department seek approval of revised application forms and guidance notes; Fitness to Practise seek approval of proposed changes to the self-referral process.

January 2011 - Implement decision to remove the health reference along with approved application forms and guidance notes

10 March 2011 – Education and Training Committee - consultation document for changes to the *Guidance on health and character*.

17 March 2011 - Council - consultation document for changes to the *Guidance on health and character*.

April to July 2011 - Consultation on changes to the *Guidance on health and character*.

8 September 2011 - Education and Training Committee - consultation analysis for consultation on *Guidance on health and character*; final guidance agreed

22 September 2011 – Council - consultation analysis for consultation on *Guidance on health and character*; final guidance agreed

October 2011 onwards - publication of revised guidance