

THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL

THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the first meeting of the Health Committee held at 1.30pm on 30 April 2003 in the offices of the Evangelical Alliance, Whitefield House, 186 Kennington Park Road, London SE11 4BT.

Present: Miss M Crawford (*Chairman*)
Miss A Foster
Dr A van der Gaag
Professor A J Hazell
Professor Sir J Lilleyman
Mrs C McGartland

In attendance: Mr M J Seale (*Chief Executive & Registrar*)
Mr G L Milch (*Secretary*)

03/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Dr Old, Mrs Stark and Professor Waller.

03/02 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was agreed that the agenda be approved.

03/03 NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was agreed that the notes of the meeting held on 19 December 2002 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

03/04 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Experience of other regulators

It was agreed that it would be useful to learn of the experience of other regulatory bodies in dealing with their registrants' health concerns. A further invitation would be issued to the General Medical Council and General Dental Council to send an appropriate officer to the next meeting to share views, experiences and explore common issues.

4.2 Invitation to the General Medical Council

It had not proved possible to reissue the invitation to an officer of the GMC in time for the meeting.

4.3 Any Other Matters

There was none.

03/05 HEALTH BROCHURES

- 5.1 The Committee received copies of three brochures prepared for the re-launch.
- 5.2 It was considered that the brochures should more accurately reflect the wording in the Health Professions Order 2001 and be less concerned with gaining the Plain English Campaign's crystal mark as the desire to state everything simply had to be balanced against clarity of expression of purpose. It was agreed that all comments should be submitted in writing within two weeks in order to collate them for the Communications Committee meeting on 10 July 2003.
- 5.3 Miss Foster (as Chairman of the Communications Committee) offered to discuss the issues raised with the Communications Director and his team.
- 5.4 It was agreed that brochures should be reviewed each year to ensure they were up to date.
- 5.5 The Committee was advised that all panel members would be provided with a Bench Book to explain all the procedures involved in the setting up and the running of a panel hearing. Everyone would be required to undergo training as well. It was suggested that it might be appropriate to produce a training video too.

03/06. INTERFACE WITH CSP

- 6.1 The Committee was informed that at the moment members of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists could be removed from the Society's membership if found to be in breach of the Society's regulations. Health impairment, where it affects ability to practise safely, may result in a member losing rights to membership. It was reported that the Society reported such matters to the HPC's Chief Executive & Registrar.
- 6.2 The HPC's policy was to inform the appropriate professional association(s) of any registrant who was subject to an order made by one of the Practice Committees. The HPC also had a statutory duty to publish details of all registrants who are subject to an order.

- 6.3 The Committee was reminded that ‘Agenda for Change’ would reinforce the requirement that only practitioners registered with the HPC could be employed anywhere in the NHS.

03/07 PARTNERS

- 7.1 There was discussion about the procedures to recruit partners to fulfil the eight possible roles (visitor, medical assessor, legal assessor, registrant assessor, registration assessor, member of practice committee panels [Investigating, Conduct & Competence and Health]).
- 7.2 It was reported that there had been nearly forty applications to be a medical assessor. Of these twenty had been interviewed and twelve would be put forward for appointment by the Council. The twelve covered a wide range of medical backgrounds and experience. The principal criterion for the interviewers had been experience of assessments. There was one further applicant to be interviewed.
- 7.3 It was thought possible that several more psychiatrists might be required and that the representation across the four home countries would need to be reviewed at the end of this round of the recruitment process..
- 7.4 There was a need to appoint a registered medical practitioner to each of the other Practice Committees (the Investigating and Conduct & Competence Committees) as required by the Health Professions Order 2001.

03/08 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

03/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11.00am on Wednesday 16 July 2003 – venue tba

CHAIRMAN