

MAIN COMMITTEE

Notes of the meeting held on Monday 21st January 2013 Teleconference

Due to bad weather conditions the meeting was cancelled and replaced by a teleconference. It was agreed that brief notes could replace the formal minutes.

Present:

Main Committee Members: Trevor Beswick (Chair), Helen Fawcett (Secretary), Maria Christou (from item 3), Roselyn Cheeseman, Liz Fidler (Chair of the Pharmacy Technician & Support Staff (Pre and Post Qualification) Specialist Group), Gail Fleming, Janet Gilbertson, Amanda Kemp (Chair of the Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacists Specialist Group), Jill McDonald, Helen Middleton, Clive Moss-Barclay, Cath O'Brien, Susan Sanders, Alison Sampson, Ann Watson.

Apologies: Waz Baqir (GHP), Roisin O'Hare (GHP), Ray Fitzpatrick, Andrea Hollister, Rachel Kenward, Julie Sowter, Karen Wragg (CPPE).

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting: 10th October 2012

Item 11 – to be amended to state 'Over the summer **one** of the colleges decided not to take further cohorts, which meant that there was no local provider in that part of Wales'.

Action: *members to send any other comments directly to H Fawcett (copied to T Beswick and G Fleming).*

2. Matters Arising

2.1 – Nominations for Secretary

T Beswick reported that he had received no nominations. H Fawcett agreed to carry on for a further two years.

2.2 – Annual report

T Beswick reported that he had not progressed with this; however, it was agreed that the Annual report would be of value especially to inform the emerging LETBs.

Action: *T Beswick to prepare the Annual report (liaising with the Chairs of the two Specialist Groups).*

2.3 – Letter to MPC / HEE about the importance of timely publication of the Pharmacy Workforce risks and opportunities papers

S Sanders had previously expressed concern about the timeliness of the publication of the 'Pharmacy Workforce risks and opportunities - education commissioning risks summary from 2012' document as it was too late to use it to inform the 2012 commissioning round for 2013-14 pre-registration trainee pharmacists.

At the last meeting it had been agreed that the Chair would write to MPC / HEE about the importance of timely publication, in order to inform education commissioning decisions; however, due to confusion over what was required this had not been done yet.

Action: *T Beswick to raise concerns with S Ambler the problems around the timeliness of publication of HEE / MEE documents.*

2.4 – Focus Event Actions

RPS Hospital Standards

R Kenward had previously provided an update by email

Action: add to the next agenda

Contribution to patient safety

A Sampson reported that J Sowter was leading on this; however, due to her current absence this will have been put on hold.

Action: add to the next agenda

3. Modernising Pharmacy Careers Programme Board

Report on the practical implications of the proposals from Workstream 1

No comments received from S Ambler about the paper.

It was agreed not to circulate the report any further until after the Stakeholder Event.

Pre-registration pharmacist numbers and future training (papers circulated prior to the meeting) <http://www.hee.nhs.uk/work-programmes/pharmacy/pharmacist-education-and-training/>

R Cheeseman had previously emailed members with the aims of the CfWI project i.e.

- To undertake a robust assessment of current pharmacist undergraduate and pre-registration trainee numbers and future trends
- Horizon scanning and scenario generation to consider the impact of changes to both pharmacist and pre-registration trainee numbers, changes to pharmacy education, technology and system-wide changes that may impact on supply or demand in the pharmacist workforce
- To make recommendations to the DH regarding the numbers of students, and any emerging imbalance between student numbers, provision of training places and the number of pharmacists required to deliver services for NHS patients through to 2040.

Work was progressing well with this project, and both S Sanders and R Cheeseman had participated in a scenario generation workshop last week. Following this meeting a draft paper had been prepared and circulated to the Workshop members for comment.

It is expected that the project will be completed by March / April 2013.

It was identified that any recommendations on restricting undergraduate numbers could be implemented prior to the introduction of any plans for integration although members were unsure how this would work practically.

4. NHS Pharmacy Staffing Establishment and Vacancy Survey 2012 and 2013

2012 Survey

S Sanders reported that the report and the raw data was submitted on time to S Ambler (September 2012). Some additional work is required on the raw data before it can be circulated to members and Chief Pharmacists.

Action: S Sanders to circulate the raw data when the transition mapping has been completed.

2013 Survey

S Sanders informed members that she had discussed with S Amber the appropriateness of HEE funding the survey in future, and was in the process of preparing a funding proposal.

Other possible sources of funding include NHS Employers.

A discussion was held about the possibility of using ESR data to replace the Survey. Some regions identified discrepancies between the ESR data and the data collected via the Survey.

Action:

- *To discuss in the future at what point the ESR data is considered to be accurate enough to make the PEDC survey obsolete.*
- *To continue with the 2013 survey (funding permitting).*
- *T Beswick to discuss further with S Ambler the funding issues, liaising with S Sanders and G Fleming.*

5. **National Recruitment Scheme for Hospital Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacists**

H Middleton reported that feedback had been received from members and hospital tutors about the new recruitment website. Some amendments will be made to the website for the start of the next recruitment including changes to the application form e.g. the profile questions, and the section on previous experience. On target to open the website on 1st March.

G Fleming reported that she had had an informal discussion with S Ambler about the quality of prereg applications. Following this it was agreed to sense check what was happening nationally. Following feedback from regions G Fleming had replied to S Ambler stating that overall there were some concerns about the quality of some of the applications and interviews but overall it does not appear to be any worse or better than in previous years. There may be local differences but there is not adequate information to provide any more detail on this. Some of the issues that were identified included poor spelling and grammar in application forms, formulaic answers to questions, and a lack of awareness of NHS or wider healthcare issues.

Helen Middleton is actively trying to improve the situation by providing more information to students on how to improve their applications through both Pharmalife and 'Tomorrows Pharmacist'.

S Ambler has replied asking if we could share the above findings with the GPhC as they were undertaking some work around registration exam failures.

Action: *Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacists Specialist Group to liaise with the GPhC .*

6. **Royal Pharmaceutical Society**

Collaborative working between RPS and NHS PEDC

G Fleming and T Beswick had a teleconference with Catherine Duggan (RPS) to discuss the relationship between NHS PEDC and RPS.

Following this meeting NHS PEDC has been invited to sign a 'Partnership Agreement'. A discussion was held on the suitability of this.

Action: *members to read the Agreement, and Terms of Reference of the Education Expert Advisory Panel and Education Reference Group (circulated), and reply to T Beswick (copied to all) by 28th January if they have any objections to the Agreement being signed.*

Under this agenda item L Fidler reported that the Pharmacy Technician & Support Staff (Pre and Post Qualification) Group (PTSSG) have close working relationships with APTUK. APTUK were setting up an E&T Group and had invited a member of the PTSSG to be a member.

7. General Pharmaceutical Council

A Kemp informed members that a member of the GPhC will in future attend the Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacists Specialist Group.

8. NHS Reforms: Stocktake of impact

T Beswick reported that he was still waiting for one response following his request for an update on the formation of the LETBs. There is also a need to tidy up some of the information submitted to prevent duplication by members who were working across cross boundaries.

S Sanders reported that she was undertaking some work to look at the number of community pharmacies in her patch, and the potential number of pre-registration pharmacists.

Action:

- *T Beswick to circulate the draft Stocktake paper for comment. Aiming to complete by mid-February in order to send to the MPC Board.*
- *To have a future discussion on the best way to interface with the LETBs, and the topics to raise with them.*
- *S Sanders to circulate a link to members, which shows the community premises that are registered and accessing PCT funding.*

9. Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacists Specialist Group

Minutes and agenda previously circulated.

A Kemp reported that the Specialist Group would not be holding a teleconference in the afternoon.

Following the publication of the 2012 Outcomes and destination survey A Kemp was looking at trends over the years. This year there was an increase in number of trainees that stayed in the NHS; however, London and associated areas collect their data in May and reported a large number of destinations unknown. She asked whether London's data should be removed as it was lowering the figure retained in the NHS. Following a discussion it was agreed to leave it in but to include some narrative about the collection dates etc.

Action: *S Sanders to discuss with her team about the timeframe for future data collection in London and associated areas.*

10. Pharmacy Technician & Support Staff (Pre and Post Qualification) Group

Minutes previously circulated.

Meeting with GPhC to discuss timeliness of registration

L Fidler reported that a meeting was held in November 2012 to discuss the issues around timeliness of registration. Present were APTUK, Awarding Bodies, and members of PTSSG. APTUK presented a number of process models for registration. The GPhC have taken on board that there are issues and are reviewing the proposals.

Action: *L Fidler to keep members informed.*

Paper highlighting the need to review the pharmacy technician qualifications (to be deferred to next meeting)

Action: *add to next agenda*

Document to signpost post-qualifications for pharmacy technicians

L Fidler reported that the comments following the last meeting had been taken into account and the document updated.

Following a discussion the Sign-posting document was signed off by the Main Committee.
Marketing off the document to be discussed at the next PTSSG meeting

Action: L Fidler to keep members informed.

ACPT Review

A meeting was held in December 2012 to start the review of the ACPT Framework.

Main changes suggested include:

- To amend the framework to incorporate a phased approach if a major error is made i.e.
 - 1st attempt - 1 serious error or 3 less serious = Period of reflection and 250 additional items
 - 2nd serious error or a further 3 less serious = Period of reflection and restart 1000 items
- Further work to be undertaken to identify if it would be acceptable to accept prior learning for the ACPT course if a candidate has completed the aseptic checking course.
- Prior learning from the ACPT programme would **not** be suitable for Final Accuracy Checking in Technical Services based on the differences between the actual role and the other factors that need to be considered in addition to the accuracy check before a product can be released.
- National recognition of regional courses:- Agreed that as community etc also offered APTC courses that recognition of the regional courses by PTSSG was not the way forward. Proposed that APTUK would be the appropriate organisation to take on the role of setting cross sector national standards; however, NHS PEDC would still retain ownership of the Framework. A model of peer review could be introduced for NHS courses.
- As the Framework is specific to technicians not looking at the moment to include assistants.

Post meeting note: this was discussed at the PTSSG and agreed to undertake some work to identify the need by trusts for checking assistants.

All suggested areas to change to be discussed further at the next PTSSG meeting.

Action: L Fidler to keep members informed.

11. Medicines management course accreditation by NHS PEDC

Deferred to next meeting.

12. Any Other Business

R Cheeseman reported that a new five-year integrated pharmacy degree was to be launched by the University of Nottingham in September 2013, which will be marketed to international students to enable a co-terminus completion of degree and GPhC registration. This five-year programme guarantees student status for the duration of the degree, without the need to apply for a separate visa for the pre-registration year.

Action: R Cheeseman to send members a link for further information

Post meeting note: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/news/pressreleases/2013/january/new-pharmacy-degree-eases-visa-headache-for-international-students.aspx>

A Sampson stated that Bradford University also had a similar integrated course.

It was identified that there were issues around the communication links between MPC / HEE and other interested parties e.g. LETB, and the lack of information that is being circulated.

Action: T Beswick to raise issues of communication from MPC / HEE with S Amblar

Dates of future meetings- *50 Eastbourne Terrace, Paddington*

Thursday 02 May 2013

Wednesday 17 July 2013

Tuesday 05 November 2013 (& followed by Focus Event on 06 November)