

Annual Report of the NHS Pharmacy Education & Development Committee 2013 – 2014

The NHS Pharmacy Education & Development Committee (NHS PEDC) functions at national, strategic and operational levels. It synthesises the expert and diverse perspectives of pharmacy education and training. This coalition influences the development of the NHS pharmacy workforce and informs the planning, modernisation and investment strategies for pharmacy education and training in the UK.

The NHS PEDC provides co-ordination in pharmacy education, development, and training within organisations providing NHS services across the UK. This leads to a single contact on all matters relating to NHS pharmacy education and training. Committee members represent the interests of NHS pharmacy education, training and development in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Observers attend meetings from a range of stakeholder organisations and members represent the Committee on various national groups and committees.

This brief report gives an overview of key work-streams 2013/14.

Main Committee:

<p>NHS Pharmacy Staffing Establishment and Vacancy Survey The May 2013 NHS Pharmacy Staffing Establishment & Vacancy Survey was more complex than in previous years due to the reconfiguration of services in primary care. 100% response was achieved. Results of the survey were published and distributed widely to inform workforce planning.</p>	<p>Embedding Francis recommendations into NHS Pharmacy Education and Training A workshop was held in October 2013 to share existing good practice across a range of themes identified in the Francis report and to identify areas for future development. A wiki has been established to enable NHS PEDC members to share resources and work collaboratively to improve training.</p>
<p>Partnership Agreement with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society A partnership agreement was signed in May 2013 with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society outlining principles and defined objectives for collaboration.</p>	<p>Supporting the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Hospital Pharmacy Standards A working group produced guidance on meeting the RPS hospital pharmacy standard number 10 (workforce) which includes a range of examples of suitable evidence.</p>
<p>HEFCE/ HEE consultation on ensuring a sustainable supply of pharmacy graduates NHS PEDC members were involved in discussions at a local level. These were pooled and key themes discussed to produce a national response to the consultation on behalf of all NHS PEDC members.</p>	<p>Supporting the Modernising Pharmacy Careers/ Health Education England Consultation Skills for Pharmacy Practice Programme NHS PEDC members were invited to represent the committee and actively contribute to the development of this work programme and subsequent outputs.</p>

Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacists Specialist Group:

<p>The Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacists Specialist Group worked on various quality assurance projects, such as development of future mock assessment content and analysis. The group also continues to work with a range of other stakeholders providing expert input e.g. GPhC Training Managers Group.</p>	
<p>National Recruitment Scheme for Preregistration Trainee Pharmacists Work with Webstar Health continued to improve the new Pharmalife website (and associated databases) which was used for the successful recruitment of the 2014 intake of pre-registration trainee pharmacists. The increased functions provided more information on posts offered. Following feedback from members and hospital tutors changes were made to the questions on the application form.</p>	<p>Article for Tomorrow's Pharmacist An article 'How to get ahead start with summer placements in hospital pharmacy' was written as a follow on from previous articles on applications and interviews. http://www.pjonline.com/tomorrows-pharmacist/links_and_resources/useful_articles/applying_for_hospital_summer_placement</p>

Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacists First Destination Report.

Annual data on the outcomes of the pre-registration year and the intended first job post-registration was compiled. This is shared with DoH, HEE and local commissioners. Core questions have been identified that will be incorporated into the 2013-14 cohort questionnaire across all regions to give context to the final destination data-set for stakeholders.

Mock Registration Examination.

The group shared the results from the full length mock papers produced for the 2013 sitting. A full analysis and review, with mapping of the question topics to the GPhC examination syllabus, has taken place to produce an updated set of papers for the 2014 sitting.

Pharmacy Technician & Support Staff (Pre & Post Qualification) Group:

The PTSSG has used task and finish groups to produce the following:

A revised Nationally Recognised Competency Framework for Pharmacy Technicians – Final Accuracy Checking of Dispensed Items (ACPT)– July 2013.	A Signposting document for Education and Training Programmes to support Foundation and Extended Roles for Pharmacy Technicians – January 2013.
Destination Outcome data for Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacy Technicians – October 2013.	Held one National Medicines Management Approval Panel, approving one medicines management scheme that meets the national criteria.
Contributed to the development of the draft APTUK Foundation Pharmacy Framework –due to be launched June 2014.	A revised Nationally Recognised Framework for Accreditation of Pre and In Process Checking Within Aseptic Services (PIPC) – August 2013.
A signposting document for Pharmacy Assistant Training Opportunities – February 2014.	

Looking forward to 2014/15:

One of the challenges for PEDC in 2013/14 has been the increasing focus on HEE agenda items rather than UK wide. This has resulted in an ongoing review of the Terms of Reference and the establishment of a separate HEE LETB Pharmacy Leads Group. During 2014/15 the focus will be on determining the best ways of working so that the new group focuses on HEE business whereas NHS PEDC and its subcommittees provide a UK wide forum to discuss and inform strategies and policies at a UK wide level. In addition there is recognised value in sharing policy developments and implementation plans across the 4 countries.

Key areas for the PTSSG will be to:

- Look at the impact of the trailblazer and Richards Review recommendations on Pharmacy Advanced Level apprenticeships.
- Develop strong links with the GPhC with particular focus on supporting revision of qualifications for pharmacy technicians
- Continue to work in partnership with APTUK to support the development the APTUK Foundation Pharmacy Framework with a view to ensuring the national accreditations map in appropriately
- Pilot a standardised model for a ‘core’ checking model between ACPT and PIPC frameworks (see above for full nomenclature)

*Gail Fleming, Liz Fidler, Manda Kemp
Chairs, NHS PEDC and Specialist Committees
April 2014*