

Annual Report of the NHS Pharmacy Education & Development Committee

September 2008 – August 2009



INTRODUCTION

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 English Strategic Health Authorities, 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.

Key Successes during the period September 2008 – August 2009

- National NHS pharmacy workforce and vacancy survey.
- National Recruitment Scheme for Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacists in the NHS.
- Representation of the interests of NHS Pharmacy Education and Training on a range of national groups and organisations.

THIS YEAR THE MAIN COMMITTEE HAS UNDERTAKEN THE FOLLOWING:

Communication Links

Communication links were maintained with the Chief Pharmacists of the four home countries; the three RPSGB Pharmacy Boards, CUHOP and the SHA Education Commissioners Group.

NHS Pharmacy Staffing Establishment & Vacancy Survey

The May 2008 NHS Pharmacy Staffing Establishment & Vacancy Survey was extended to collect data on regional specialist pharmacy. 100% response was achieved from Acute and Mental Health Trusts and PCTs from the four home countries. Results of the survey were published in October 2008 and distributed widely to inform workforce planning.

National Recruitment Scheme for Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacists in the NHS

The electronic recruitment system facilitated the successful recruitment of pre-registration trainee pharmacists in the 2009-2010 cohort by the NHS managed services.

NHS Pharmacist Numbers Task and Finish Group

Members supported the submission of evidence from their SHAs to this T&F Group which reports to the PMEG / WAPPiG to support the number of SHA funded Pre-Registration Trainees Pharmacist placements in the NHS managed sector and their retention post-registration.

Responses to Consultations

The committee sent responses to various draft documents proposing future national policy including the Draft Pharmacy Order 2009 (Section 60) Consultation.

Information and advice provided to national bodies on policy and practice in pharmacy education:

Members of the main Committee and its sub-groups have:

- Attended CPPE Stakeholder and User Advisory Board meetings.
- Provided information on pharmacy to NHS Careers.
- Supported the DH Pharmacy Workforce Think Tank linking in with National Workforce Review Team.
- Joined the GPhC work streams to support the development programme for Regulatory Standards.
- Attended meetings of the Modernising Pharmacy Careers Board.
- Represented the Committee on the NHS Pharmacy Specialist Committees Reference Group.

SPECIALIST GROUPS WORKING ON BEHALF OF THE NHS PEDC

The NHS PEDC oversees the actions and activities of the Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacists Specialist Group and the Support Staff Specialist Group and/or projects under its jurisdiction including pre-registration, post-qualification and continuing professional development. Both Specialist Groups continue to be effective in developing joint initiatives, disseminating and sharing information. They provide valuable help and support to training leads in their specialist areas and represent the NHS PEDC on a range of other Committees

Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacists Specialist Group

The Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacists Specialist Group has developed quality assurance programmes to assess the standards of regional Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacist training programmes, which are now in use across the UK

The Group collected data on the outcomes of the Pre-Registration year and the intended first job post-registration, which was shared with DoH. Other activities included promoting hospital pharmacy to undergraduates and liaising with CUHOPS regarding Modernising Pharmacy Careers.

Members of the Group represented the NHS on various RPSGB Groups including the Fit for the Future Group; the Stakeholders Group of the RPSGB Pre-Registration Liaison Group; the Transitional Working Groups relating to pre-registration training.

Support Staff Specialist Group

The Support Staff Specialist Group collated Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacy Technician figures to enable better understanding of workforce capacity, recruitment and retention; shared experience of the use of e-Portfolios and contributed to work on Career Frameworks.

Members of the Group contributed to the work of the following organisations:

- RPSGB on the pharmacy practice framework for Support staff via representations on the Support Staff Advisory Group.
- Skills for Health, Edexcel & City & Guilds on the new qualification for pharmacy services.
- TSET on the development of a primary training resource in Aseptic Processing.
- CoDEG on the development of Technician Level Framework



website: www.nhspecd.nhs.uk
including Northern Ireland

