

Annual Report of the NHS Pharmacy Education & Development Committee 2012 – 2013



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 committees¹.

This brief report gives an overview of key work-streams 2012/13.

Main Committee:

Responding to MPC Proposals on Pre-Registration Pharmacist Education and Training. A detailed report was prepared for the committee and shared with the MPC Project Management Team on the implications of the proposals².

Responding to English NHS Reforms. A watching brief has been maintained on the impact on LETBs on commissioning of NHS pharmacy training at local level. This has been shared with the MPC Programme Board.

NHS Workforce Survey. The May 2012 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 and distributed widely to inform workforce planning³.

Participating in Centre for Workforce Intelligence work on Pharmacist Numbers. A number of committee members participated in the CfWI project into the numbers of pharmacy graduates and future workforce requirements.

Developed Partnership Agreement with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

Substantive positive and constructive discussions led to a partnership agreement with the RPS.

Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacists Specialist Group:

The Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacists Specialist Group worked on various quality assurance projects, such as benchmarking and mapping the regional training provision to the GPhC Education Standards. The groups also continue to work with a range of other stakeholders providing expert input e.g. GPhC Training Managers Group.

Mock Registration Examination. The group developed a full length mock registration exam which was used for the first time in Spring 2012 and has been analysed and reviewed to produce 2013 papers.

Guidance on Pre-Registration Post Offers. In partnership with Pharmacy Voice and the BPSA, joint guidance was developed for pharmacy students regarding the management of conditional pre-registration pharmacist training offers⁴.

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 and local commissioners⁵.

NHS Careers. The group reviewed the Pharmacy information on NHS careers. Other related activities included promoting hospital pharmacy to undergraduates in events within schools of pharmacy.

Trainee Recruitments. Work with Webstar Health was carried out to develop a new Pharmed website (and associated databases) which was used for the successful recruitment of the 2013 intake of pre-registration trainee pharmacists. The new website enables greater automation, improved electronic communication with hospitals and students and has a modern interface. The new website is also faster and more reliable than the old website and the NHS has greater control of the content due to the use of a content management system⁶.

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

The National Frameworks for Final Accuracy Checking and Pre & In Process

Checking. These are hosted on our website and group members continue to lead locally on the provision of these schemes. Both checking frameworks are due for review by July 2013 and are on target for main committee approval. It is essential that the content of the framework reflect quality measures with regards to patient safety and workforce demands.

National Medicines Management Scheme. The process of assessing local and regional medicines management training and assessment programmes against the national framework continued. There are now seven programmes approved as meeting the national standards⁷.

Signposting Document. An overview document of post-registration pharmacy technician career development and progression is developed⁷. With the intended purpose to

- Provide examples of opportunities available to post qualified pharmacy technicians
- Signpost to development resources
- Illustrate how specific pharmacy education and training programmes link to roles and pharmacy services

The signposting document has been completed and circulated to a range of stakeholders including NHS PEDC members and APTUK. A letter outlining its purpose, accuracy and review information was also circulated. All information is hosted on the PEDC website.

Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacy Technician First Destination Report. This is the first time this data set has been collated and was of particular interest as it was the first cohort of trainees that required mandatory GPhC registration on qualification. Some were unable to start work as a registered pharmacy technician due to delays with the registration process. The Chair of the PTSSG approached the professional body to explore further and work with the GPhC to review the process and provide guidance on how this can be prevented in future years.

Consultations. The PTSSG has responded to requests for views on consultations. Notably

- GPhC Pharmacy Technician and Pharmacy Assistant Seminar
- Modernising Pharmacy Careers Work Stream 2 – frameworks and post qualification training
- Modernising Pharmacy Careers Work Stream 2 – Consultation and Communication Skills development

Future developments

As the major changes in the commissioning of NHS education and training bed in, the committee will be looking at how it can continue to lead the development of NHS pharmacy workforce in a way that brings improvements in service quality and outcomes for patients. The HEE mandate is clearly a key development along with the development of the LETBs as we all tackle the significant challenges that the NHS will face in the coming years.

Our partnership work with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society will be important to build on as the profession seeks to drive up quality and standards.

The committee has supported the Modernising Pharmacy Careers Workstreams and looks forward to supporting their further progress.

¹ <http://www.nhspedc.nhs.uk/>

² <http://www.nhspedc.nhs.uk/strategy.htm>

³ <http://www.nhspedc.nhs.uk/surveys.htm>

⁴

<http://pharmalife.co.uk/browsehospitals/menu/id/NDE3/menutitle/RkFRIC0gSm9ilE9mZmVycyAmI EFwcG9pbnRtZW50>

⁵ <http://www.nhspedc.nhs.uk/prereg.htm>

⁶ <http://pharmalife.co.uk/>

⁷ <http://www.nhspedc.nhs.uk/supports.htm>