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To consider

Revalidation: Progress Report

Issue

1. A progress report on the revalidation work programme.

Recommendation

2. To consider the Progress Report (paragraph 7 and Annex A).

Further information

3. If you require further information about this paper, please contact us by email: gmc@gmc-uk.org or tel. 0161 923 6602

Background

4. Key Aim Three of the 2009 Business Plan is to 'enhance assurance that licensed doctors are up to date and fit to practise by introducing licences to practise and preparing for revalidation'.
5. Underpinning Key Aim Three are objectives:
 - a. To introduce the licence to practise.
 - b. To establish the UK Revalidation Programme Board (UKRPB) to oversee the implementation of revalidation.
 - c. To pilot and deliver the changes needed to support revalidation, working in conjunction with the Departments of Health in each of the four countries of the UK.
 - d. To develop standards and evaluation method, working with the medical Royal Colleges and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges.
 - e. To develop and consult on guidance showing how revalidation will work.
6. In January 2009, Council agreed the Project Initiation Document (PID) for revalidation. This sets out the 12 work streams that form the building blocks for the implementation of revalidation.

Discussion

7. Key Aim Three is being taken forward through the work streams set out in the Revalidation PID. The report at Annex A sets out the progress against those work streams.

Recommendation: To consider the Progress Report at Annex A.

UK Revalidation Programme Board

8. The UKRPB most recently met on 10 June 2009. The outcome of that meeting was reported to Council on 8 July 2009. The UKRPB will next meet on 14 October 2009. Following Council's endorsement of the high-level revalidation readiness plan, the UKRPB will monitor progress towards readiness based on the milestones and actions in the readiness plan.
9. The readiness plan does not determine when and where revalidation will be rolled out. That will be a decision for Council, taking account of advice from the UKRPB and engagement with key interests early in 2010. The UKRPB will be considering options for implementing revalidation on 14 October 2009 and we will report on the outcome of that discussion to Council.

Continued Practice Board

10. The Continued Practice Board, chaired by Malcolm Lewis, will continue to work on a number of key policy areas including the proposals from the medical Royal Colleges on specialist and general practice standards and evaluation methods, criteria and principles for multi source feedback and the role of continuing professional development in revalidation. The CPB expects to be able to report back to Council before the end of 2009 and this work will underpin a significant engagement on revalidation planned for early in 2010.

Communication and engagement

11. On 22 July 2009, we held a round table discussion on the patient and public perception of revalidation with members of our newly established Reference Community. The discussion was led by Anne Weyman and included the patient and public representatives on the UKRPB – Joan Saddler and Kaliani Lyle.

12. The discussion provided a useful basis for identifying and understanding the questions, thoughts and perspectives the public may have on revalidation in the context of safe and high quality healthcare.

13. Anne Weyman, Joan Saddler and Kaliani Lyle will also provide a summary report to the UKRPB on 14 October 2009. We intend to hold further similar events as part of our revalidation engagement strategy.

14. On 26 August 2009, UKRPB chair, Keith Pearson, met with representatives of the Scottish Government Health Directorates, including Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dr Aileen Keel. This forms part of his series of meetings with senior officials in each of the four countries of the UK to discuss the progress that the four delivery boards are making. He will meet with Professor Sir Liam Donaldson, Chief Medical Officer for England, on 9 September 2009 and Dr Michael McBride, Chief Medical Officer for Northern Ireland, on 6 November 2009.

15. Peter Rubin continues to meet with groups of doctors in various parts of the country to discuss a range of issues, including revalidation. Other Council members and staff have continued to speak at conferences and meetings about revalidation to a wide variety of public and professional audiences.

16. The most recent edition of *GMCtoday* devoted several pages to information about revalidation. This will be followed up with further articles in subsequent issues.

Resource implications

17. None.

Equality

18. We will work with the Equality and Diversity Reference Group to consider the implications at all stages. An initial discussion with the Group has identified the need to consider very carefully the equality implications in relation to the implementation of revalidation and a full equality assessment will be undertaken as part of work to develop proposals for implementation.