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To consider

Supporting Strategies to the Corporate Strategy 2010-2013: Research, and European and International

Issue

1. The supporting strategies for Research, and for European and international work, which will support the Council's Corporate Strategy 2010-2013.

Recommendations

2.

a. To agree the Research Strategy and the European and International Strategy (paragraphs 8-10 and Annexes A and B).

b. To authorise the Chair of Council, in agreement with the Convenor of the Research Reference Group and the Chair of the European and International Working Group, to sign off final versions of the Research and European and International Strategies (paragraph 11).

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. Strategic Aim Eight of the Business Plan 2010 states that we will deliver evidence-based policies that demonstrate 'better regulation' principles; and Strategic Aim Six is to help shape the local, UK and European and international regulatory environment through effective engagement with decision makers, other regulators and key interest groups.
5. On 22 October 2009, Council agreed to the development of supporting strategies for our European and international, Equality and diversity, and Research and development work which will help us deliver our Corporate Strategy. This development has been overseen by the relevant Working and Reference Groups.
6. During informal session on 31 March 2010, members agreed the proposed aims and priorities for each of the supporting strategies. Each of the supporting strategies is aligned to the principles of the GMC's Corporate Strategy and the four themes of its strategic priorities: protecting the public, helping doctors, working with partners, and delivering value for money.
7. Council will consider the Equality and Diversity Strategy on 13 July 2010. This paper invites Council to agree the European and International and Research Strategies.

Discussion

Research Strategy

8. The Research Strategy (Annex A) reflects the principles agreed by members on 31 March 2010, which are that commissioning research either directly or in collaboration with other organisations should enable us to:
 - a. Lead, anticipate and respond to developments in medical regulation in order to take into account the changing and increasingly diverse healthcare environment.
 - b. Encourage the publication and use of independent and robust research that enhances patient safety and promotes quality throughout medical practice and education.
 - c. Secure credibility, efficiency and effectiveness for our processes and policies by underpinning them with evidence.
 - d. Ensure prioritisation and value for money through commissioning projects that are targeted and aligned with our Corporate Strategy.

European and International Strategy

9. The European and International Strategy (Annex B) reflects the five main aims for the GMC's future activity in this area which members agreed on 31 March 2010:

- a. To engage and influence effectively in Europe and beyond, in the interests of exploiting opportunities to develop and enhance the rights of patients to effective medical regulation.
- b. To advocate principles of effective and proportionate regulation.
- c. To highlight the importance of assuring the fitness to practise of practitioners as they move between countries in the interests of patient safety.
- d. To advocate methods for timely and consistent information sharing on doctors and healthcare professionals between competent authorities.
- e. To share the GMC's experience and approaches to professional standards and ethics and the regulation of medical education and training throughout all stages of a doctor's career, and learn from the experiences of others.

10. Council is invited to consider the draft Research Strategy and the European and International Strategy.

Recommendation: To agree the Research Strategy and the European and International Strategy.

Next steps

11. We propose that, following discussion, the Chair of Council should sign off any amendments that may be required to the two strategies, in discussion with the relevant convenor and chair. The strategies will then set the framework within which we will develop more detailed action plans and work programmes which will be discussed as appropriate with the Reference and Working Group.

Recommendation: To authorise the Chair of Council, in agreement with the Convenor of the Research Reference Group and the Chair of the European and International Working Group to sign off final versions of the Research and European and International Strategies.

Resource implications

12. The work programmes which emerge from the development of these strategies will be covered by the resources assigned to each Directorate and in each operational plan.

Equality

13. There will be equality and diversity considerations for some of the work streams that emerge from both strategies (for example around language testing). These considerations will be taken into account as we develop specific work programmes for these areas.