
7b - Joint Co-ordination Group: Progress Report - Annex A

Joint Working

1. Agreed areas of joint work are:
 - a. *Revalidation.* There are some specific issues for joint consideration, including in respect of the revalidation of doctors in CCT training programmes. It will be beneficial to embed the framework for appraisal and assessment based on *Good Medical Practice* into the processes that underpin trainees' progression through training programmes. That is being done through the review of specialty and sub-specialty curricula and assessment systems which PMETB will be undertaking in the very near future. The UK Foundation Programme Office is also considering the potential application of the framework to the revised Foundation Programme curriculum.
 - b. *Quality Assurance.* There are currently separate QA programmes for the various stages of education and training – undergraduate, Foundation, postgraduate and post CCT. We need to consider what the medium to long-term position should be after the merger, and whether there is an opportunity to develop an integrated approach across all stages. In the short-term, an approach to QA for 2009/10 has been agreed between the two organisations, and work is underway to address the longer-term position, including through the review led by Lord Patel.
 - c. *Credentialing.* A credentialing steering group has been established, chaired by Dr John Jenkins (as Chair of PMETB's Training Committee). There are two workstreams. The first – 'Progression through training' – is led by PMETB. The second - 'Supporting Revalidation' - reflects the GMC's responsibilities in relation to the processes leading to revalidation, and includes a particular focus on speciality ('SAS') doctors. This workstream is led by Dr Malcolm Lewis.

d. *Partner and Associate integration.* We are reviewing the contractual arrangements of PMETB Partners and developing plans to assimilate Partners within GMC Associate contractual terms and conditions. An initial analysis of the approaches taken by the two organisations suggests a high level of compatibility, with arrangements, such as appointment, contracts and fees, being very similar. We are confident that integration should be reasonably straightforward.

e. *Equality and Diversity.* The GMC, as a core part of its overall longer-term corporate strategy, is in the process of enhancing and updating its diversity strategy, both as an employer of staff and in the way its statutory responsibilities are discharged. PMETB is involved in discussions with a view to drawing on good practice in both organisations with no loss of momentum at the point of merger. We are considering the best way to harmonise our respective Equality Schemes in the course of 2009, and aim to ensure that all staff in both organisations have benefited from equality and diversity training well before April 2010.