

GMC/MPTS Liaison Group

Draft as on 11 July 2018

Minutes of the Meeting on 15 May 2018

Members present

Terence Stephenson, Chair

Gavin Brown
Susan Goldsmith
Charlie Massey
Anthony Omo
Paul Reynolds

Neil Roberts
Dame Caroline Swift

Others present

Clare Rayner, Group Secretary

Chair's business

- 1 The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, and in particular Paul Reynolds, who was in attendance for the first time since taking up his appointment as Director of Strategic Communications and Engagement.

Minutes of the meeting on 4 December 2017

- 2 The Group noted that the minutes of the meeting on 4 December 2017 had been agreed as a true record on circulation.

Matters arising

- 3 The Group noted that a number of items raised at the previous meeting had been considered either by MPTS or GMC management and the responses provided had been included in the actions log.
- 4 With reference to paragraph 23 (d) the Group commended the members' revalidation process initiative outlined by Gavin Brown, Executive Manager. The Group noted it would take some time to implement.

Draft report of the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service Committee and draft report to Parliament

- 5 The Group considered the draft report of the MPTS Committee, noting the summary of performance of the MPTS since the previous report to Council in December 2017 and the work of the MPTS Committee. The Group also discussed the draft report to Parliament which would be laid before Parliament during the summer of 2018.
- 6 During discussion, the Group noted:
 - a A number of drivers for the reduction in cases adjourned part-heard including the introduction of Legally Qualified Chairs and the requirement for parties to submit evidence bundles for pre-reading by tribunals.
 - b The priorities of the MPTS Committee during 2018.
 - c Diversity of tribunal panels, 46% of tribunal members were female and 20% identified as coming from black and minority ethnic (BME) backgrounds which compared favourably with the most recent published figures for courts and tribunals in England and Wales.
 - d Plans for further expansion of the Doctor Contact Service which was available to doctors attending MPTS hearings.
 - e The number of MPTS review hearings in Quarter 1.

f Ongoing initiatives to publish tribunal outcomes in clear English.

7 Further consideration would be given to:

- a** Whether it was possible to ascertain underlying trends in the number of cases considered by MPTS year on year, given the MPTS caseload was determined by referrals from the GMC which in turn were generated from a number of channels.
- b** MPTS communication plans.
- c** Analysing the data on the outcomes of new interim orders to quantify the different possible outcomes following an interim order and communicating this to registrants.
- d** Feedback on the draft report to Parliament.

Executive Manager's Report

8 The Group considered the Executive Manager's report which included the MPTS Risk Register up to April 2018.

9 During discussion, the Group noted:

- a** Staff engagement initiatives including meeting with the Chair of MPTS for afternoon tea.
- b** An MPTS bid to the New Initiative Fund for a number of projects had been successful and the proposed activities would be implemented going forward.
- c** Work of MPTS to engage doctors through a number of platforms including the Doctor Contact Service and the website and ongoing work to extend support to the pre-hearing stage.
- d** Ongoing review of MPTS guidance, primarily used by unrepresented doctors, to ensure it was clear and effective.
- e** Ongoing plans to reconfigure MPTS office space in St James's Building which would provide an opportunity to develop improved facilities for witnesses.
- f** During discussion, the Group noted that further consideration would be given to:
 - i** The timeline for completion of analysis of MPTS outcomes.
 - ii** If it was possible to define and benchmark a "diverse tribunal panel."
 - iii** Reviewing the risk register to ensure it was sufficiently forward looking.

Reviews of gross negligence manslaughter and culpable homicide (Scotland)

- 10** The group discussed the various reviews and initiatives following the High Court judgment in the case of Dr Bawa-Garba including:
- a** The Williams Review, commissioned by the Government to conduct a policy review into the issues relating to gross negligence manslaughter in healthcare, led by Professor Norman Williams.
 - b** The Dame Clare Marx Review of gross negligence manslaughter and culpable homicide (Scotland) commissioned by the GMC.
 - c** Other ongoing GMC initiatives and research including how to incorporate ‘human factors’ in the work environment which could also be considered by MPTS in due course.

Operational issues – Appeals

- 11** An update on appeals from 1 October 2017 to 31 March 2018.

Any other business

- 12** It was noted that the next meeting would take place on 27 November 2018 in London.

Confirmed:

Terence Stephenson, Chair