

To consider

Chief Executive's report

Issue

1. This report sets out progress on our strategic aims and significant changes in our external environment since Council last met:

- Section one: outlines developments in our external environment.
- Section two: reports on progress on our strategy.

Recommendation

2. Council is asked to consider the Chief Executive's report.

Section one — Developments in our external environment

Major events affecting our strategic priorities

3. The Chair and I are scheduled to meet with the Secretary of State on 15 May 2013 to discuss the report of the Public Inquiry into Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. We asked for the meeting following the Secretary of State's letter of 6 February 2013, following publication of the report, asking us to look at every aspect of our work and consider whether it properly meets the expectation that doctors should be accountable to patients and their families for the care they give. I will provide an update on this at the Council meeting.

4. The various reviews that have been commissioned as a result of the report are also beginning to meet. On 2 May 2013, I attended the first meeting of the Key Partnerships Group established by Anne Clwyd MP and Tricia Hart as part of the review of NHS Complaints. Ben Jones has also attended the first meeting of the review of NHS bureaucracy chaired by Mike Farrar on 24 April 2013.

Government and Parliamentary activity which may impact on our work

5. The report of Sir Bruce Keogh's review of the regulation of cosmetic interventions was published on 24 April 2013. The recommendations include restoring the requirement that only doctors on our specialist register should perform cosmetic surgery and the establishment of a new Cosmetic Surgery Interspecialty Committee under the auspices of the Royal College of Surgeons to develop standards for cosmetic surgery in discussion with us. The report also stresses the importance of Responsible Officers in holding doctors to account for their whole practice which includes any private cosmetic work. We have engaged closely with the review team and will now work closely with the Royal College and others in taking this work forward. We recognise this is a growing area of medical practice in which patients are particularly vulnerable and that we have a significant role in helping to protect patients and improve standards. The Government is expected to respond to the recommendations in June and we will engage with Department of Health (England) officials about the recommendations that relate to us.

Key engagements

6. I attended a seminar hosted by the Secretary of State on the Balance of Competency Review. The review, commissioned by the Foreign Secretary to audit what the EU does and how it affects the UK. Key issues in the health sector include the European Working Time Directive, the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive, the impact of the EU in health research and e-health.

7. I hosted a dinner with Ben Jones for Liberal Democrat parliamentarians on 24 April 2013. This is the first engagement in our series of mid-year sessions with groups of parliamentarians. The aim is to build on our relationships with key politicians and to discuss key issues facing the GMC. This dinner was attended by Paul Burstow MP, Andrew George MP, John Pugh MP and Lord Alderdice. We will be

hosting a dinner for Labour parliamentarians and a breakfast for Conservative Parliamentarians in July.

8. The Chair and I have had our regular meetings with the Presidents of Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and the Royal College of Physicians to discuss how we work together including the establishment of our Education and Training Advisory Board, input into major policy initiatives such as the Shape of Training Review and the impact that the report of the Public Inquiry into Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust is likely to have on medical education and training.

9. The Chair and I also met with David Behan the CEO of CQC and his new Chair David Prior. We discussed the joint operating model which has just been finalised between ourselves and the CQC which sets out how our two organisations work together and share information. We also discussed the wider context of the Public Inquiry into Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust including the importance of revalidation.

10. On 15 May 2013, I am due to meet with the Chief Medical Officer for England for one of our regular meetings to discuss a number of issues including revalidation, the Public Inquiry into Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, the oversubscription for Foundation Year 1 places, the Shape of Training Review and the quality assurance of medical education overseas.

11. I also met with the Chief Executive of the Foundation Trust Network to discuss links between the GMC and Foundation Trusts, and the importance of using the clinical governance arrangements that underpin revalidation to improve the quality and safety of services.

12. I attended the Health and Social Care Regulators Forum at which Ben Jones presented details of the new operational framework between the GMC and CQC. Following discussion we have also agreed to redraft the terms of reference for the group which brings together both system and professional regulators in England.

13. Among other external engagements I attended the BMA Junior Doctors Committee dinner and a dinner organised by KPMG involving system and professional regulators.

14. We continue to plan for the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities conference which we are hosting. It will be held at the London Film Museum from 9–12 September 2014 and we hope there will be strong representation from the UK and that it will attract a wide range of participants from around the world. I will be engaging with a number of overseas regulatory authorities later this year to encourage attendance. We expect to attract more than 300 participants and that the conference will promote greater international co-operation among medical health professional regulators. The programme is being developed by an international group which I chair.

15. Following preliminary discussions I am due to meet Adrienne Kelbie, the new Chief Executive of the Disclosure and Barring Service, on 17 May 2013, to discuss

how referrals from our fitness to practise procedures and how we might share information in the future.

Other points of interest in the external environment

16. The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman has been exploring the concept of establishing a 'complaints hub'. As part of this work it has undertaken a survey of regulatory bodies to understand how regulators capture information about complaints and how that is used to signpost complainants to other organisations where appropriate. The PHSO have also published a report on the lessons learned from the last five years of NHS complaints they have handled. We will continue to engage with this work through the CQC's quarterly Health and Social Care Forum as it develops alongside the review of NHS complaints being conducted by Anne Clwyd.

17. We have submitted a response to Baroness Neuberger's review of the Liverpool Care Pathway on 22 April 2013. The response sets out the ethical principles underlying our guidance on care towards the end of life as well sharing some of the feedback that was obtained during the consultation process.

18. The Board of the Professional Standards Authority will be receiving the final performance review report for 2012–13 on 22 May 2013 and we anticipate that publication will be shortly afterwards.

Section two — Progress on our strategy

Strategy and Policy Board

19. The Strategy and Policy Board will meet on 16 May 2013 and I will provide an update at the Council meeting. The Board plans to review:

- a. Undertaking a formal consultation, later this year or early next, with key interest groups to help identify the generic themes for inclusion in postgraduate specialty training curricula.
- b. Developing options to consider, in our plans for 2014, the differential pass rates for postgraduate medical examinations.
- c. Amending our conditions and undertakings bank to replace reference to deaneries with reference to Responsible Officers.
- d. The 'Welcome to UK Practice' programme.
- e. An update on Promoting professionalism.

Legislative reform

20. I am pleased to report that the 'quick win' amendments to the Fitness to Practise Rules 2004 to support the modernisation of the MPTS' procedures came into force on 8 May 2013. This is a significant milestone in the development of the MPTS

and we are now focussing our discussions with the Department of Health (England) on finalising the drafting of the section 60 Order ahead of consultation later this year. We have also approached the Department with the proposal to vest the statutory basis of the MPTS in the Chair. The Department have said they will consider this and come back to us.

21. In February 2013, the UK Government announced plans to give the GMC new powers to check the English language skills of doctors from Europe when we have concerns about their ability to communicate effectively. To do this, the Government will need to amend the Medical Act by way of a section 60 order. Since the announcement, we have been working with Department of Health officials and lawyers to agree the terms of that order. The detailed arrangements for how the process will work will be set out in regulations. We are working on drafting those regulations and we have agreed with the Department that we will consult on those regulations for three months from late July 2013. We will circulate a draft of the consultation document and the regulations to Council members for comment before publication.

22. The Department remains confident that the Law Commission's work on the simplification review will lead to a Bill being introduced to Parliament in the 2014/15 session.

23. We have held a number of conversations with the Department about the quality assurance of medical education overseas. The Department has indicated that it will revisit whether this is an issue that might be included in one of the section 60 orders in train or in the Bill arising from the Law Commission's work.

24. Separately we have responded to the Department's consultation on the section 60 order on insurance and indemnity requirements for registered healthcare practitioners.

Supporting information

- Details of the review of bureaucracy in the NHS:
<http://www.nhsconfed.org/priorities/latestnews/Pages/NHS-Confed-to-lead-review-of-bureaucracy-in-NHS-announces-health-secretary.aspx>
- Details of the review of NHS complaints:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/review-of-nhs-complaints-system>
- Details of the review of the Liverpool Care Pathway:
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2013/01/review-lcp/>
- Details of the Balance of Competency Review:
<https://www.gov.uk/review-of-the-balance-of-competences>
- The final report of the review of the regulation of cosmetic interventions:
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/12/responses-cosmetic-surgery/>

If you have any questions about this paper please contact:

Niall Dickson, Chief Executive, 0207 189 5291, ndickson@gmc-uk.org