

Agenda item:	8
Report title:	Establishing a GMC Medical Advisory Board
Report by:	Anna Rowland , Assistant Director, Policy, Business Transformation and Safeguarding, Fitness to Practise. Anna.Rowland@gmc-uk.org , 020 7189 5077.
Action:	To approve

Executive summary

We have met with the Royal College of Psychiatrists, the Royal College of GPs and the Faculty of Occupational Medicine to explore ways of accessing specialist medical expertise when developing and monitoring our approach to vulnerable doctors.

Following a consensus in these meetings and discussion with the Chief Executive, we are now moving this recommendation forward by setting up a GMC Medical Advisory Board to advise the GMC across all its functions on issues relating to vulnerable doctors.

Recommendations

The Executive Board is asked to consider and approve:

- a** The establishment of a GMC Medical Advisory Board.
- b** The GMC Medical Advisory Board Statement of Purpose (Annex A).

Background

- 1 Following the review that we undertook with Professor Appleby, we have agreed to increase senior medical input into our work in relation to vulnerable doctors by setting up a GMC Medical Advisory Board.
- 2 The aims of establishing the Advisory Board are to:
 - a Obtain specialist oversight of how we balance our public protection role with the needs of vulnerable doctors.
 - b Obtain advice to support how we relate to vulnerable doctors, for example, when we develop policies or guidance.
- 3 We propose the Chair of the Medical Advisory Board should be a GMC Director or Assistant Director appointed by the Chief Executive and members will be nominated for an initial three year term by the Royal Colleges of Psychiatrists, the Royal College of GPs and the Faculty of Occupational Health, with co-options as necessary.
- 4 Annex A details the proposed Statement of Purpose for the GMC Medical Advisory Board.

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8 – Annex A

GMC Medical Advisory Board Statement of Purpose

Purpose

- 1 To provide expert advice to the Executive Board on how to ensure that, in delivering our statutory objectives across all of our functions, we take account of the needs of vulnerable doctors, striking an appropriate balance between sensitivity of approach and effective public protection.

Duties and activities

- 2 The Advisory Board will, as required:
 - a Receive reports on our Vulnerable Doctors Programme.
 - b Advise on our approach to vulnerable doctors.
 - c Advise on policies and guidance to support our approach to vulnerable doctors.
 - d Advise on training for staff on handling vulnerable doctors.

Membership

- 3 The Chair of the GMC Medical Advisory Board is a GMC Director or Assistant Director appointed by the Chief Executive.
- 4 The GMC Medical Advisory Board consists of representatives from the Royal College of Psychiatrists, the Royal College of GPs and the Faculty of Occupational Health to be appointed by the GMC following nomination from the relevant organisation.
- 5 Members will be appointed for an initial three year term, and be subject to review as required.
- 6 Additional co-opted members may be appointed from time to time to provide expertise on specific issues.

- 7 The Advisory Board may convene one or more working groups to report to it on specific areas. These groups may comprise Board members and/or co-opted members.

Meetings

- 8 The GMC Medical Advisory Board will meet twice a year.

Working arrangements

- 9 The FTP directorate will provide the secretariat for the Advisory Board and organise the agenda and papers for its meetings. GMC staff will attend meetings as required.
- 10 Agendas will be supported by a mix of papers and presentations. Papers for each meeting will normally be sent electronically to members at least seven days in advance of Board meetings. Copy papers will be posted to members requiring a hard copy.
- 11 Meeting papers and minutes will be published on the GMC website.

Reporting and accountability

- 12 The Board will provide advice to the Executive Board who will take that advice into account in reporting to Council.
- 13 The secretariat will organise updates and reports from the Advisory Board to the GMC Executive Board as required.