

Agenda item:	11
Report title:	Report from the UK Advisory Forums
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Action:	To note

Executive summary

This paper reports on the latest discussions from the UK Advisory Forums, which took place in March 2016 in Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. The summary provides details of the areas of interest or concern raised by UK Advisory Forum members, an update on our priority programmes, local agenda items discussed at each meeting, an update on the *State of medical education and practice* report 2015 and the Devolved Office Review.

Recommendation

The Strategy and Policy Board is asked to note the summary report from the UK Advisory Forums.

Meetings of the UK Advisory Forums March 2016

- 1 The UK Advisory Forum (UKAF) meetings were held in Belfast on 3 March, in Cardiff on 9 March and Edinburgh on 14 March 2016.
- 2 At each meeting the Chair reiterated the importance of and the GMC's commitment to ongoing engagement with our key interests in Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland and thanked members for their ongoing support for our work.

Update on local priorities/areas of interest or concern from Forum members

- 3 The Forums considered local priorities and areas of concern or interest.
- 4 In Northern Ireland, the Forum's discussion focussed on:
 - a The significance of ensuring that an adaptive undergraduate medical curriculum is reflective of future medical needs and the proposal for a future single Medical Licensing Assessment.
 - b Primary and secondary care recruitment and retention of doctors and workforce planning issues, especially for GP's working in rural areas.
 - c The GMC's new education standards and current challenges for postgraduate education and training in Northern Ireland.
 - d Concerns around regulators priorities for legislative change now that the Law Commissions Bill would not be taken forward as anticipated.
 - e The review into Health and Social Care reform in Northern Ireland and the acknowledgement that it could have a long-term impact on organisations such as the Health and Social Care Board and the Public Health Agency.
 - f The impact that the Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales 2016 elections and the EU Referendum could have on healthcare and the work of the GMC.
- 5 In Wales the Forum discussed:
 - a Healthcare Inspectorate Wales' (HIW) recent Advisory Forum which looked at empowering patients in the prudent healthcare landscape. HIW are also considering if professional regulators should be represented at their bi-annual Healthcare Summits.
 - b The Welsh Government review into the performance of the Revalidation Support Unit at the Wales Deanery.

- c** The proposal for a future single Medical Licensing Assessment and Swansea University's plans to develop a course for Physician Associates.
 - d** Cardiff University's engagement with Health Boards and Trusts in Wales to ensure that the GMC's [Promoting Excellence](#) guidance is being adhered to in respect of student placements.
 - e** How the Wales Deanery are ensuring that the GMC's [Promoting Excellence](#) guidance is being adhered to by employing organisations with a responsibility for postgraduate education and training.
 - f** Concerns around regulators priorities for legislative change now that the Law Commissions Bill would not be taken forward as anticipated.
 - g** Recruitment issues faced by Wales Deanery in a number of specialities, particularly in core medicine.
- 6** In Scotland the Forum discussed:
- a** The Scottish Government's intention to develop the undergraduate programme to increase the number of medical school places, introduce a graduate entry programme and plans to engage with primary and secondary school pupils to encourage them to study medicine. In this context the proposal for a single Medical Licensing Assessment was also discussed.
 - b** Concerns around regulators priorities for legislative change now that the Law Commissions Bill would not be taken forward as anticipated.
 - c** On-going work to integrate health and social care. Healthcare Improvement Scotland and the Care Inspectorate are working on a joint scrutiny model to develop guidance relating to decision making for out of hours care in care homes. Scrutiny of care homes would commence in April 2016 with an emphasis on prescribing.
 - d** The GMC's Recognition of Trainers programme which is scheduled to go live on 1 July 2016. During the 2017 medical education quality assurance visit to Scotland, the GMC would review implementation progress.
 - e** How Scottish Government civil servants would receive training on confidentiality, based on GMC guidance.

GMC Update

- 7** The Forums received updates on key areas of our work, including the development of the Medical Licensing Assessment, the appointment of new Council members working or living wholly or mainly in each of Scotland and Wales, revalidation, legislative reform and the future of regulation.
- 8** The Forums noted:
 - a** The on-going development of the Medical Licensing Assessment, and that the GMC would continue to engage with key interest groups and assessment experts in a spirit of co-production.
 - b** That an independent evaluation of revalidation had been commissioned by the GMC, and the first interim report would be published in spring 2016. In addition, Sir Keith Pearson would undertake a review of how revalidation should be taken forward and would submit a report by the end of 2016.
 - c** Two Council members, Enid Rowlands and Jim McKillop, will demit office at the end of 2016, having reached the maximum limit of eight years' service in any period of 20 years. An open competition would be run to fill the vacancies and appoint one medical member and one lay member working or living wholly or mainly in each of Scotland and Wales.
 - d** The ongoing challenge for the GMC in securing legislative reform and UK government plans to introduce a new bill enabling this in 2019.

Country specific items

- 9** The Forums considered updates from a key partner in each of the respective countries.
- 10** In Northern Ireland the Forum discussed the work that the postgraduate deanery had undertaken on valuing trainees in Northern Ireland. The Forum noted an increase in vacancies, particularly in speciality training that could have long term implications. Further work was required to ensure doctors in training would be provided with opportunities and receive adequate training.
- 11** In Wales the Forum discussed the Wales Deanery Education contracts between the trainee, Health Board and the Deanery. The contract would be part of the Deanery's intention to develop and deliver high quality, sustainable training programmes that would be attractive to potential applicants and would also be appropriate for the future needs of the health service in Wales. The Forum noted that the contract would be fully implemented in Paediatrics, Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Surgery by August 2016, other specialities would follow in due course.

- 12** In Scotland the Forum discussed the Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report for 2014-15 entitled *Realistic Medicine*, which highlighted specific issues around clinical leadership, variation in practice, use of data to improve care and joined-up management. The Forum noted that softer skills would be necessary to develop a culture of realistic medicine - this could be addressed in part through medical education and student intake and this was also aligned with the GMC's work on *Shape of Training and Generic Professional Capabilities*.

The State of Medical Education and Practice in the UK: 2015

- 13** The Forums received a presentation on the key headlines from the 2015 report *State of Medical Education and Practice* in the UK. The purpose was to share our data on the medical profession and healthcare systems.
- 14** Forum members were informed that the data could be made available to partners in support of our shared efforts to improve patient safety.

GMC Devolved Office Review

- 15** The Forums in Northern Ireland and Scotland received an update on the review completed in 2015 which reflected positive engagement with key interest groups in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.
- 16** The Forum was informed that the GMC would take forward implementation of the review to include improved governance and visibility, as well as ensuring that the GMC strategy would reflect four country regulation.

Next meeting

- 17** The next meeting of the UK Advisory Forums will take place in Cardiff on 5 October, Edinburgh on 13 October and Belfast on 19 October 2016.
- 18** The actions arising from the spring meetings will be regularly monitored on an ongoing basis.