

Agenda item:	16
Report title:	Quality Scrutiny Group Annual Report
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Considered by:	Quality Scrutiny Group
Action:	To note

Executive summary

The Quality Scrutiny Group provides an annual report to the Strategy and Policy Board on its work in the scrutiny of our quality assurance activity. The last report to the Board was on 6 October 2015.

The Quality Scrutiny Group has met twice since October 2015. The number of meetings in 2016 was reduced from the planned three reflecting the timing and impact of the change programme in the Education and Standards Directorate.

Recommendation

The Strategy and Policy Board is asked to note the annual report of the Quality Scrutiny Group providing a summary of activity since November 2015.

Background

- 1 The Quality Scrutiny Group (QSG) provides consistent scrutiny of our education quality assurance activity, identifies themes and trends, and identifies process improvements. The QSG has met twice since its last report: 30 November 2015 and 13 April 2016. This paper summarises the activity of the QSG over the past year.
- 2 The number of meetings in 2016 was reduced from the planned three, reflecting the timing and impact of the change programme in the Education and Standards Directorate. Agenda items reflect the QA priorities in the past year: to deliver the regional reviews; publish the new Quality Assurance Framework; and further develop enhanced monitoring.
- 3 Over the past year the agenda of the QSG has included more briefing by staff to make sure members are aware of developments in QA processes when they scrutinise our activity.

Quality assurance activity scrutiny

- 4 The QSG considered the following quality assurance activity:
 - a Kent, Surrey and Sussex and East of England regional visits (reports of 2 local education and training boards; 11 local education providers; and Brighton and Sussex Medical School, University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine, UEA Norwich Medical School).
 - b Enhanced monitoring developments.
 - c Quality Assurance Framework (following new education and training standards).
- 5 The QSG continues to identify themes, and provide advice on proposed process improvements. It provides a valuable forum to receive constructive, and on occasion challenging, feedback about our work.

Themes

- 6 The QSG has identified themes and trends over the past year:
 - a Although the GMC's role is quality assurance of LETB's and deaneries' quality management of local education providers, GMC participation in local visits to LEPs as part of enhanced monitoring can help resolve issues. The QSG was supportive of our research into early indicators that may help us to pick up and warn about issues before they reach enhanced monitoring.
 - b The QSG is supportive of *Promoting excellence*, the new standards for education and training and will scrutinise the South West regional review, which was the first to use the standards, at its meeting in December.

- c** Workforce staffing, rota gaps and service pressure that affect delivery of training. Increasing use of locum doctors to fill rota gaps has an impact on education, such as supervision of foundation doctors.

Process improvements

- 7** The QSG is supportive of the quality of data collected and the identification of issues for regional visits. The QSG has identified the following process improvements over the past year:
 - a** Reports should set out what preparatory works was undertaken to identify organisations that we visit in a regional review. For example what enhanced monitoring activity we have been undertaking in the region and why certain specialties have been selected for a visit.
 - b** Reports should be clear about what actions need to be taken so the standards and requirements are met, and deadlines need to be set.
 - c** Reports should be clearer about the difference between requirements and recommendations.
- 8** The QSG was supportive of our work analysing enhanced monitoring indicators. The QSG observed that this was a complex and interesting piece of work which should be kept on the agenda as it develops.
- 9** The Education and Standards Directorate are keeping the QSG under review and considering whether it is still able to provide consistent scrutiny of our education quality assurance activity, identify themes and trends, and identify process improvements as we develop our QA and data functions following the change programme.