

Summary note of the meeting on 9 March 2016

Attendees

Niall Dickson, Chair
Philip Banfield, BMA Cymru Wales
Tim Brown, Swansea University
Shane Carmichael, GMC Assistant Director – Strategy and Communication
Kate Chamberlain, Healthcare Inspectorate Wales
Peter Donnelly, Wales Deanery
Susan Goldsmith, GMC Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Executive
Jane Green, Welsh NHS Confederation
Una Lane, GMC Director of Registration and Revalidation
Paul Myres, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges Wales
Heather Payne, Welsh Government
Rachel Podolak, GMC Head of Welsh Affairs
Steve Riley, Cardiff University
John Skipper, Board of Community Health Councils in Wales

Others present

Liam Anstey, GMC Welsh Affairs Officer
John Bainton, GMC Clinical Fellow
Ciaran Crowe, GMC Clinical Fellow

Welcome

- 1 The Chair welcomed attendees to the sixth meeting of the UK Advisory Forum in Wales.
- 2 Apologies for absence was received from Terence Stephenson, Chair of the General Medical Council. Niall Dickson, GMC Chief Executive chaired the meeting in his absence.
- 3 The Chair gave a warm welcome to Dr Paul Myres, who attended for the first time and also to Tim Brown - deputising for Andrew Grant, Peter Donnelly – deputising for Derek Gallen, Heather Payne – deputising for Dr Ruth Hussey, Stephen Riley – deputising for Nicholas Topley, John Skipper – deputising for Tony Rucinski and to Jane Green – representing the Welsh NHS Confederation.

Chair's introduction

- 4 The Chair thanked Forum members for their ongoing support and emphasised that the purpose of the meeting was for the GMC to hear from those with a key interest in our work in Wales.

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

- 5 Forum attendees were invited to provide updates on their priorities. During discussion, the Forum noted:
 - a That Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW) had recently held its own Advisory Forum which looked at empowering patients in the prudent healthcare landscape. The Forum was also informed that HIW was considering whether the nine PSA regulators should be represented at its bi-annual Healthcare Summits. The Forum further noted that an Information Services Agreement (ISA) with the GMC had now been signed.
 - b That the Welsh Government was undertaking a review of the performance of the Revalidation Support Unit at the Wales Deanery. It was noted by the Forum that this was timed to coincide with the end of the first cycle of Revalidation and was not a root and branch review.
 - c That Swansea University was developing a course for Physician Associates.
 - d That Cardiff University was engaging with Health Boards and Trusts in Wales to ensure they are following the GMC's *Promoting Excellence* guidance in respect of student placements.
 - e That the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges Wales was concerned with the slow pace of reforms following the Shape of Training Review.

- f** The call for a ten year vision for NHS Wales by the Welsh NHS Confederation.
- g** That the Board of Community Health Councils in Wales was in the process of developing Memorandums of Understanding with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, Older People's Commissioner for Wales and the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales.
- h** That the BMA had recently worked with the Welsh Government on the NHS Wales Values which were launched on 22 February 2015.
- i** That the Wales Deanery was facing recruitment issues in a number of specialities, particularly in core medicine.

GMC Update

- 6** The Forum received updates on key areas of our work, including the Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA), the appointment of new Council members for Wales and Scotland, Revalidation, legislative reform and the future of regulation.

Medical Licensing Assessment

- 7** The Forum was updated on the development of a Medical Licensing Assessment. Forum members were told that the GMC was developing the MLA through close engagement with key interest groups and assessment experts.
- 8** The Forum was informed that Professor Terence Stephenson, Chair of the GMC, had recently visited Cardiff Medical School and that the MLA proposals were well-received. The Forum was also informed that a visit to Swansea Medical School would take place in April 2016.

Revalidation

- 9** The Forum was updated on the GMC's work on Revalidation.
- 10** During discussion, the Forum noted that
 - a** Approximately 6,000 doctors in Wales had been revalidated in this cycle.
 - b** The GMC had commissioned an independent Evaluation of Revalidation and an interim report would be published in April 2016.
 - c** Sir Keith Pearson had been commissioned to undertake a review of Revalidation and would report back by the end of 2016.

Legislative reform and the future of regulation

- 11 The Forum was informed that the UK Government announced in December 2015 that it would not be taking forward the Law Commission's Bill, and that it proposed to take a new and potentially more radical look at the future shape of professional regulation, with a view to producing a new Bill. The Forum noted that this consultation would likely be a four country consultation and take place in autumn 2016.
- 12 Forum members were encouraged to participate in the consultation when it launched.

Recruitment of new Council member

- 13 The Forum was informed that Mrs Enid Rowlands, Council member, would demit office at the end of the year and that an appropriate process would soon be underway to fill the vacancy on Council.

Wales Deanery – Education contracts with Health Boards that incorporate the new GMC standards

- 14 The Forum received a presentation from Professor Peter Donnelly of the Wales Deanery on Education contracts with Health Boards that incorporate the GMC's [*Promoting Excellence*](#) guidance. Members were informed that the contract would be between the trainee, Health Board and the Deanery.
- 15 Forum members were informed that the Education Contract was part of the Deanery's intention to develop and deliver training programmes which are:
 - a High quality.
 - b Sustainable.
 - c Attractive to potential applicants.
 - d Appropriate for future needs of the Health Service in Wales.
- 16 The Forum was told that the Contract would be fully implemented in Paediatrics, Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Surgery by August 2016, with other specialties to follow in due course.

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

- 17 The Forum received a presentation from Susan Goldsmith, GMC Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Executive on the 2015 *State of Medical Education and Practice* report in the UK.
- 18 The purpose of this session was to share some of the data the GMC holds on the medical profession and healthcare systems. Forum members were also informed that

the data could be made available to partners in support of our shared efforts to improve patient safety.

- 19** During the presentation Forum members were informed that:
- a** Wales has the joint highest number of licenced doctors aged over 50.
 - b** In Wales, there was a decline both in the number of complaints against doctors received in 2015 and the proportion of cases which reached our threshold for further investigation.
 - c** The number of doctors on the register continues to grow.
 - d** Women are an increasing proportion of the workforce in most areas with more than half of GPs now being women.
 - e** That whilst GP numbers have grown, the number of specialists is growing over three times faster.
- 20** Forum members expressed an interest in the case study of acute trusts in England and how this case study could be applied to Wales in the future.
- 21** Forum members also expressed an interest in hearing more about Wales specific data in the future. Susan highlighted that a key aim of the GMC's ongoing Data Strategy was to be able to provide data on a country and Health Board basis for Wales.
- 22** It was noted that the GMC would be providing HIW with data, tailored by Health Board, for its up and coming Healthcare Summit in May 2016.

GMC Devolved Office Review 2015

- 23** It was agreed that Forum members would be provided with a written update for this item.

Closing remarks

- 24** The Chair thanked Advisory Forum attendees for their contribution to the meeting and reiterated his opening comment that the GMC remains committed to four country regulation.
- 25** The Chair also noted that this would be Rachel Podolak's last Advisory Forum as GMC Head of Welsh Affairs. The Chair thanked Rachel for her contribution to the Advisory Forum and wished her the very best for the future.
- 26** The Chair also expressed his thanks to Dr Ruth Hussey – the outgoing Chief Medical Officer of Wales for her help and contributions during her tenure, with particular

reference to her leadership during the introduction of revalidation, and wished her an extremely happy retirement.