

## UK Advisory Forum (Northern Ireland) - 26 October 2017

### Attendees

Charlie Massey, GMC Chief Executive  
Susan Goldsmith, GMC Chief Operating Officer & Deputy Chief Executive  
Una Lane, GMC Director of Registration and Revalidation  
Shane Carmichael, GMC Assistant Director, Strategy and Communications  
Alan Walker, GMC Head of Northern Ireland Office  
Joanne Donnelly, GMC Employer Liaison Adviser  
Lady Christine Eames, GMC Council member  
Heather Moorhead, NI Confederation of Health and Social Care  
Dr Grainne Doran, Royal College of General Practitioners Northern Ireland  
Dr Margaret O'Brien, Health and Social Care Board  
Dr John D Woods, British Medical Association Northern Ireland  
Dr Jackie McCall, HSC Safety Forum  
Dr Camille Harron, Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA)  
Judith Cross, British Medical Association Northern Ireland  
Louise Skelly, Patient and Client Council  
Heather Monteverde, Macmillan Cancer Support

### Others present

Emma-Jayne Wright, GMC NI Office Administrator  
Carolyn Ekin, GMC NI Policy and Public Affairs Officer  
Louise Holmes, GMC NI Liaison Adviser  
Dr Christopher Allen, NIMDTA ADEPT Clinical Leadership Fellow  
Dr Rachel Campbell, NIMDTA ADEPT Clinical Leadership Fellow  
Dr Catherine Donaghy, NIMDTA ADEPT Clinical Leadership Fellow  
Dr Niall Corrigan, NIMDTA ADEPT Clinical Leadership Fellow

## Welcome

- 1 Charlie Massey chaired the meeting and apologised that the GMC Chair, Professor Terence Stephenson had been unable to attend due to travel disruption in London.
- 2 The Chair welcomed attendees to the UK Advisory Forum (UKAF) in Northern Ireland (NI), including the ADEPT Clinical Leadership Fellows who observed the meeting.

## Actions and feedback from March 2017 meeting

- 3 At the UKAF meeting in NI in March 2017, we had discussed developments and pressures on primary care in Northern Ireland and potential impacts on long term sustainability and safety of GP services. Since then the GMC has continued to monitor developments and engage with RCGP (NI), BMA (NI) and other key stakeholders.
- 4 The review of flexibility in training was published and there is continued work with the UK Government to discuss how the flexibility in training review will be taken forward alongside the recommendations contained in the UK Governments' Shape of Training Steering Group Report published in August 2017.
- 5 Since the UKAF meeting in March 2017, a number of meetings with key stakeholders have taken place to understand the potential implications of Brexit on healthcare provision and regulation both pre and post Brexit.
- 6 At the UKAF meeting in March 2017 the Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA) consultation was coming to an end. The GMC has continued engagement with stakeholders around the considerations for taking this forward in NI.

## Systems and collective assurance

- 7 The Forum received a presentation from Una Lane about GMC Data and how it can be accessed, and our ambition to share with our partners across the UK to support collective assurance across the health services.
- 8 Forum members welcomed the presentation and during discussion noted:
  - a The way in which our data could be useful to our stakeholders and regulatory partners, particularly to help with identifying trends and anticipating risk
  - b Forum members commented on how useful this information will be and agreed to provide feedback on how they have found the GMC data explorer and at the next UKAF meeting.

## **GMC Education workshop update**

- 9** Alan Walker provided the Forum with an update on Education workshop held in Belfast on 18 October 2017. The event attracted a range of representatives from across medical education and training stakeholders, the five HSC Trusts, Medical Royal colleges, BMA and student representatives in NI.
- 10** During the discussion, the Forum noted:
- a** Attendees received an update on the GMC's emerging thinking on the Medical Licencing Assessment (MLA) following the consultation earlier in 2017. There was support from both U/G and P/G representatives for the proposed revised approach of a single clinical knowledge test alongside Universities continuing OSCE exams within a more regulated framework. Attendees at the workshop recognised that GMC had listened to the feedback from the consultation.
  - b** In relation to the Outcomes for Graduates consultation attendees were very supportive of the principle and the greater consistency across our work. There was also support for the concept of outcomes covering how to work in multi-disciplinary teams and also on the ability to communicate with patients and colleagues.
  - c** The need to ensure that outcomes do not become tick box exercise for some and the need to ensure consistency of approach across all medical schools.
  - d** The Chair reminded Forum members that the Outcomes for Graduates consultation is open until 10 January 2018, and encouraged members to respond.

## **Northern Ireland National Quality Assurance Review of education and training**

- 11** Alan Walker provided an overview of the key themes from the NI National Review report that was released on 24 October 2017.
- 12** During discussions, the Forum noted:
- a** The support for medical students and the NIMDTA Valued scheme were mentioned as areas of good practice
  - b** Overall a positive report but it also identifies areas for improvements and a number of specific concerns that were raised during the process and responded to at that time.

- c** An Equality and Diversity (E&D) video that was produced by NIMDTA to raise awareness of E&D issues which has been co-branded by GMC.
- d** Joint working between education organisations such as QUB and NIMDTA was highlighted.
- e** The GMC will now be working with NIMDTA, QUB and the HSC Trusts on the action plans that have been developed in response to the issues raised

### **Medical Workforce, quality and safety**

- 13** Alan Walker introduced the discussion on cross border working on the island of Ireland and invited members to respond to questions outlined in the paper.
- 14** During the discussion, the Forum noted:
- a** The commitment outlined in Health and Wellbeing 2026 to increase provision of cross border delivery of healthcare services.
  - b** The importance of mutual recognition of qualifications with NI being the most dependant country in the UK for EU doctors.
  - c** The impact that the arrangements between NI and Republic of Ireland (ROI) could have on future medical students, particularly in relation to the cost of training.
  - d** NICON are hosting an event on 25 January 2018 titled 'A Healthy Brexit?' which will explore the implications and opportunities of the EU Exit on Health and Social Care.
  - e** The ongoing work that the GMC was doing with other regulators and stakeholders both in NI and UK wide and plans to hold seminar to explore the issues further in Spring/Summer 2018.

### **Updates on pressures in primary and secondary care**

- 15** The Chair invited contributions from Dr Grainne Doran, RCGP NI on primary care and Dr John Woods, BMA NI on secondary care. During the discussion, the Forum noted:
- a** Significant pressures remain in primary care and that the absence of an Executive meant that it had not been possible to finalise the funding package to support the recommendations of the Review of GP led services. However, a key concern is the length of waiting lists in the NI health service which are significantly longer than elsewhere in UK.

- b** The high dependency on locums in secondary care along with the shared concerns with waiting lists and delay to implementation of the reform of services identified by Bengoa and in the Executive's Delivering Together vision was noted. There remains concerns of the pressures on doctors in training and ensure the correct balance is maintained between service provision and training in pressurised environments.
- c** It was agreed that the GMC NI office would meet with RCGP to discuss some of the specific issues relating to primary care further and the Chair advised that he would share the issues concerns when he met the Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Chief Medical Officer on 27 October 2017.

### **Upstream regulation: preventing harm and supporting professionalism**

- 16** Susan Goldsmith outlined the 2018-2020 Corporate Strategy and described GMC's key strategic aims. During discussions the Forum noted:
- a** The importance of ensuring that front line doctors are aware of the change in focus to move upstream and support doctors.
  - b** The Strategic aims that have been developed in the GMC's draft Corporate Strategy:
    - 1: Supporting doctors in maintaining good practice
    - 2: Strengthening collaboration with our regulatory partners across the health services
    - 3: Strengthening our relationship with the public and the profession
    - 4: Meeting the changing needs of the health services across the four countries of the UK
  - c** The Chair highlighted an upcoming UK Government consultation on regulatory reform. He encouraged all forum members to respond and said that the GMC NI office would be happy to meet to discuss the GMC's views on the proposals in the consultation.
- 17** The Forum received a presentation from Louise Holmes, Liaison Adviser on the partnerships with key stakeholders in NI HSC sector to support the GMC's engagement with medical professionals and students on the frontline.
- 18** Forum members welcomed the presentation and during discussion noted:

- a** NIMDTA welcomed the partnership they have with the GMC in the development and delivery of professionalism sessions. The ADEPT clinical leadership fellows also highlighted the benefits they had found from these sessions and the increased visibility of the GMC.
  - b** There are further opportunities for the GMC to partner with patient organisations to deliver similar sessions as resources allow.
  - c** The GMC have commissioned work to evaluate the long term impact of these sessions.
- 19** The Forum were asked to consider the overarching principles of the GMC's draft strategy and to provide any further comments regarding our engagement with medical professionals on the frontline via the GMC NI office.

### **Chair's Closing Remarks**

- 20** The Chair thanked Forum attendees for their contribution to the meeting.