hpc health professions council

Health Professions Council meeting agenda summary
Thursday 10 February 2011

This is a summary of the decisions made at the Council held on Thursday 10 February. The full agenda and papers are available on our website at:

www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/council/councilmeetings_archive/

Full minutes of the meeting will be published as part of the papers for the next Council meeting.

Health and Social Care Bill 2011
The Council received a paper on the implications of the Health and Social Care Bill 2011 for the HPC. The Bill proposes the following changes:

- Abolition of the General Social Care Council and the transfer of its regulatory functions (including approving the education and training of approved mental health professionals) to the Health Professions Council, which will be renamed the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). The HCPC's governing legislation, the Health Professions Order 2001, is renamed the Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001 by the Bill;

- new powers to set up voluntary registers for unregulated professions or related professions, including students seeking to enter a regulated or unregulated profession or related occupation;

- changes to the governance, functions and funding of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE), which is to be renamed the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care (PSAHSC). The Bill also gives PSAHSC the power to accredit voluntary registers;

- abolition of the Office of the Health Professions Adjudicator.

The Council instructed the Executive to develop a draft work plan to address the issues detailed in the paper and present the proposals to the Council on 31 March 2011. In instructing the Executive, they agreed in principle that the establishment of voluntary registers should be actively considered provided they meet the needs of public protection.

Application for the regulation of Sports therapists by the Society of Sports Therapists
In 2006, the Council considered an application for the regulation of sports therapists made by the Society of Sports Therapists under the HPC's new professions process.

The paper outlined the Council's decisions to date in relation to this application, appended further information from the applicant group and invited the Council to recommend statutory regulation of the group to the Secretary of State for Health and to Scottish Ministers.

The Council agreed to make a formal recommendation to the Secretary of State for Health and to Scottish Ministers for the regulation of sports therapists under Article 3 (17) (a) of the Health Professions Order 2001.

Appointment of a Council member onto the Audit Committee
In accordance with the process of ad hoc appointment to Committees, Council approved the appointment of Morag MacKellar to the Audit Committee

If you need any further information about the decisions of Council, please contact Louise Hart by email at louise.hart@hpc-uk.org