

Summary



UK Public Health Register
Meeting of the Board held on 8 September 2009 at the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, Chadwick Court, 15 Hatfields, London SE1 8DJ

PRESENT:	Jim McEwen	Amanda Little
	Peter Farley	Naresh Chada
	David Pattison	Gabe Docherty
	David Williams	Jonathan Sexton
	Hilde Rapp	Lillian Somervaille
	Brendan Yates	Fiona Sim
	Paul Scourfield	Jeremy Hawker
	Fiona Harris	Alison Wall
	Allison Thorpe (on behalf of Judy Jones)	Sarah North (secretary)
	Rodrigo Voss (observer)	Zoe Clark (observer)

Jim McEwen welcomed everyone to the meeting. He advised that he will open the meeting and then formally hand over to Peter Farley who is taking over the Chair of the Board.

Apologies were received from Ben Anderson, Neil Roberts, Steve George, Judy Jones, David Pruce, George Morris, Chris Tudor-Smith, Suzanne Odams and Paul Robinson.

No declarations of interest were given. The minutes from the May 2009 Board meeting were approved.

The Board were advised that the minutes from the three Executive Committee teleconferences that have taken place over the summer have been combined into a summarised version of the three meetings, and this is with the Board papers. The UKPHR Board in May 2009 delegated power to the Executive Committee over the summer period.

Jim McEwen was advised by Paul Scourfield that tonight there is a dinner to be held in his honour to celebrate his six years as Chair of the UKPHR Board.

Jim McEwen formally handed the Board Chair to Peter Farley, who advised that he has known Jim McEwen for thirty years and although it maybe like 'standing on the shoulders of giants' he is looking forward to the challenges. He was on the Board originally as the Welsh Assembly Government representative until 2006. Having retired from the WAG he is looking forward to his new role with the UKPHR. The Board is the central part of the workings of the register; he has been involved with the register since its inception.

Jim McEwen advised that a lot has been achieved in the past six years, and he thanked all of the Board members and commented that without the Board's help and enthusiasm, together with the assessors, and many other individuals and organisations, the register could not have achieved so much in this period.

The register must maintain momentum with its continuing development and maintain also the many successful collaborative relationships that it has with many individuals and organisations.

He paid thanks to Lillian Somerville who he has found a delightful colleague to work with and they have been a successful and complimentary team of Chair and Vice Chair. Lillian Somerville will be remaining in her role as Vice Chair for another term. He has greatly valued her wisdom and advice.

He also thanked Sarah North for her work on the register as she has also been here since the inception.

Peter Farley spoke as the new Chair. He advised that there are now currently 411 individuals on the register. This progression has been achieved largely to the leadership of Jim McEwen, and he thanked him for all the work and dedication that he has given to the UKPHR, and he should be proud of what he has achieved.

The new constitution has been finalised and will today be 'signed off by the three original company directors. With the new constitution, the number of directors has increased from the original three and there will be a maximum of 24 Board members, not all of which will be directors. The exclusions are the co-opted members and observers; the representatives from the regulatory bodies who were previous full members are now observers. Observers will take a full role on the Board but are not eligible to vote.

There has been correspondence with DH about the regulatory review and a letter has been received from DH answering many of the questions raised by the Executive Committee. Draft terms of reference have been prepared and these are currently being reviewed. It will be looked at by the four countries and then will be sent to the CMOs from the four countries. The UKPHR will have sight of the TOR before it is sent to the CMOs.

This is very important to the work of the register and how it continues with its operation, for example, how the UKPHR will fit in with the regulatory environment together with issues surrounding the exact direction of its future development.

A statement will be prepared by the UKPHR Board on the current position with its development of practitioner regulation, in regard to the review, and this will be posted on the website shortly, after taking advice from the four Departments of Health. It will also be sent to interested parties and stakeholders.

Momentum will be on this project is being maintained with the results from the consultation being compiled and then going out on the website for final comments in October.

The UKPHR stressed to the four Departments of Health that it is imperative that the UKPHR has a clear timeframe for the completion of the review; the Board were advised that DH is working to complete the review by the end of the year.

DH England is also conducting a review of public health workforce policy and outcomes, looking at the delivery system. Terms of reference have been released for this; there was a workshop at the FPH conference in June, and the review has been taken to the TPHNs (Teaching Public Health Networks). The UKPHR Board requested that a representative from DH be invited to the November Board meeting to talk about the reviews.

The Board saw the KSF paper on revalidation for information, and acknowledged that the work on revalidation is an important part of work this year.

A communications group has been established and this is in response to the acknowledged importance of effective essential communication for internal and external stakeholders, for example, registrants, assessors, Board members, Advisory Group, and other external organisations/individuals (DH, FPH, employers, potential registrants etc). New policy will be introduced to fit each category such as when misreporting has been done by a third party, or misconceptions arise; communication of policy changes; consultation on policy changes; responses to formal consultations. The communications strategy working group will take this forward.

As part of the communication strategy an Advisory Group meeting will be convened it is hoped for the morning of the Board meeting in November.

As reported in the bulletin from the Board meeting in May there was a proposed slight change to the FPH Part A examination. This was formally approved by the UKPHR Board at that meeting and a letter has been sent to the FPH.

The Board received reports from the Registration Panels from June, July August and September. Six were recommended for admission to the register at the meeting earlier today and this brings the number to a total of 411 admitted to the register. The Board though was asked to note that fifteen of these have not renewed. This is due to various reasons, retirement, no longer working in public health, etc. The Board ratified the recommendations of the Registration Panel for admissions to the register.

Eleven people have come forward to train as assessors and the first training session is taking place next Monday that five people will be attending. A further training session is organised for later in the year for the remaining potential assessors.

The Board were asked to note that there have been some delays in assessments and the assessment time of 16 weeks may not currently be met, but this has been mainly due to some assessors being involved in the work surrounding swine flu. Applicants are being made aware if they ask, that applications may be delayed due to the swine flu preparation and work.

Work is currently progressing on the responses to the practitioner consultation, and thanks were expressed to those involved in the project. The standards for the final consultation will be available at the end of October on the website, and will be also sent to the Board direct. There will be about a month allowed for the consultation.

Mapping will continue with some stakeholders, such as the HPA and will also engage with the KSF team to map standards across. There is still a lot of support for this regulation framework, and the UKPHR have been meeting with the National Stop Smoking Training Centre, as well as other smoking cessation groups. The National Stop Smoking Training Centre is run by DH, and it has shown enthusiasm for the registration of practitioners.

The CHRE report has been published on advanced practise, and the general view is that there is no need for the regulation of advanced practitioners as this is more of a career progression level and will be recognised as achievement through this pathway. The GMC and NMC do not have three levels of registration so the UKPHR should not add another layer to the specialist and the proposed practitioner levels.

The UKPHR Board saw minutes from the Public Health Workforce Development Group that met over the summer. This is an independent group consisting of a number of stakeholders, the FPH, RSPH and the UKPHR, for example, originally convened to oversee the collaborative public health bid submitted three years ago. The group's role will regularly be reviewed although it is currently useful tool for discussion as DH now attends also.

The Board was asked to note that the TPHNs are not included in any of these groups e.g. Shaping the Future or the PHWMG.

The Board saw minutes from the last UKPHR/FPH liaison group. It was confirmed that the FPH has agreed to review its CPD programme as it had been closed to non FPH members. This was welcomed by the Board.

The Board was asked to note with regard to the Galway Consensus that is under consideration, a global advisory group has been established to take forward the next steps of the Galway consensus.

The Board was asked to note that there is no change to the risk register.

The next two scheduled meetings of the UKPHR Board are 10 November and 19 January 2010. Both are scheduled to be held at the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health.

Peter Farley thanked everyone for attending and thanked Jim McEwen once more for all his work and dedication to the UKPHR and wished everyone a good meal tonight, those who are attending from the Board and other guests.

September 2009