

Summary

Public Health Register

Meeting of the Board held on 10 March 2009 at the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, Chadwick Court, 15 Hatfields, London SE1 8DJ

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

Jim McEwen welcomed everyone to the meeting. Allison Thorpe is at the meeting today representing DH England, on Judy Jones behalf, Suzanne Odam is here as the specialist trainee representative, Brendan Yates is here as the Vice Chair of the Registration Panel, and Alison Wall is here representing the NMC having now been confirmed as the representative.

Apologies were received from Ben Anderson, Bernadine O'Sullivan, Neil Roberts, Steve George, Judy Jones, Hilde Rapp, Phil Mackie, David Puce and Amanda Little.

No declarations of interest were given. The minutes were approved from the UKPHR Board meeting in January 2009.

Jeremy Hawker is leading on the proposal for provisional registration. There was a meeting before the UKPHR Board today and it was agreed that more work is required to take this forward. The benefits need to be clearly identified, together with the risks, and clarification on which groups this registration could potentially apply to. The proposal will be brought back to the September Board meeting.

The developmental route was discussed in full at the Board meeting in January. It was agreed that a final version would be sent to Jim McEwen and Fiona Sim for 'sign off'. They confirmed they are now satisfied with the final version. The Board have now formally approved this route and it will be publicised through the CIEH and UKPHR websites, together with the FPH through PH.com.

The UKPHR will be establishing an enhanced communication strategy to keep all involved with the register up to date with developments and news. It is aimed at registrants as well as assessors, Board members etc. With the new database registrants will be sent via email, if they have requested this option, copies of the news bulletins, Board statements etc.

The final draft for the new constitution will be brought to the next Board; although it was hoped to bring this today, there are still issues on which the lawyer requires clarification; it is currently being re-drafted. The aim is to have a simple workable constitution; the UKPHR Board previously agreed the revised Standing Orders.

As the new constitution will soon be established Jim McEwen advised that he will step down as Chair of the UKPHR Board, as he will shortly have completed six years in this post.

A proposal has been made by DH England, with agreement from the other three countries, that a review be conducted of the register. This will be an important exercise. The four DHs are all very supportive of the register work and what it has achieved so far and wish to support it in its future, this will establish where the register fits within the changing public health workforce now, and how it may be used to further public health workforce development. It will also be possible to take account of the wider proposed changes with regard to regulation of health professionals. A meeting will be held with the Executive Committee of the UKPHR and the 4 DHs to take this forward.

The Practitioner Regulation consultation is progressing well and is nearing the end of the consultation period. There has been a number of consultation events, regionally and nationally, taking place; a further one is being held this week and is being hosted by IDEA and is an invitation only event. There is a regional event on the 19 March in the North West, and North East Region has expressed strong interest in hosting an event. An event will be held in Northern Ireland before the end of March and one for health protection in April. Proposals are being made to host events for health promotion both regionally and nationally. The recent consultation event in Edinburgh was very successful and had been commented on as a positive and encouraging meeting by one. The UKPHR Board is very grateful to all those who have contributed to the consultation and the views expressed will be taken into account when drafting the final proposals that will go to the UKPHR Board later this year.

Discussion and ideas around how the process for registration for practitioners would operate has started, and together with a small group from the UKPHR Board and the involvement of the UKPHR assessors a skeletal idea has progressed into a more substantial and workable proposal of process. Agreement has been reached with NPHS Wales that it will be an early implementer to test out the standards and the process for registration at the beginning of 2010. This will be an excellent opportunity to test out the standards and process from practitioners from a variety of backgrounds within public health together with strong support from the NPHS Wales.

The 'Routes to the Register' paper has been redrafted to create a more simplified and succinct document. Once finalised, this will be put on the register website in place of the previous document.

The minutes of the last meeting from the FPH/UKPHR Liaison Committee were circulated to the Board for information.

The UKPHR Board has formally agreed the revised role of a moderator for the assessment process for the defined specialists. This role has been functioning within the generalist portfolio assessments and has now formally been agreed for the next stage for the defined.

The Board received a report from the Registration Panels held in February and March 2009. There are now 392 registrants: 329 through the portfolio route, 57 through the FPH standard training route, and six through dual registration.

March 2009