

Summary

UK Public Health Register

Meeting of the Board held on 9 September 2008 at the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, Chadwick Court, 15 Hatfields, London SE1 8DJ

PRESENT: Jim McEwen
Lillian Somerville
Brendan Yates
Jonathan Sexton
Fiona Sim
Fiona Harris
Chris Tudor Smith
Paul Robinson
Steve George
Sarah North (secretary)
Zoe Clark (observer)
Rodrigo Voss (observer)

Jim McEwen welcomed everyone to the meeting with a special welcome to Lillian Somerville and also to Rodrigo Voss, who will be starting at the register on 29 September 2008.

Apologies were received from Marianne Cowpe, Phil Mackie, Jeremy Hawker, Ewen MacLeod, Neil Roberts, George Morris, Naresh Chada, David Pruce, Graham Rushbrook, Marilena Korkodilos, Paul Scourfield, David Williams, Hilde Rapp and Bernadine O'Sullivan.

No declarations of interest were received. The minutes were approved from the UKPHR Board meeting in May

Jim McEwen and Sarah North attended a meeting of the UKIPG (United Kingdom Inter-Professional group). This is a group of regulators who meet regularly and consider issues surrounding regulation, governance, and further education, together with other issues, and this membership it is hoped, will prove useful in seeing how other regulators deal with specific issues. The membership is diverse, from health professionals and surveyors, to farriers.

The UKPHR Executive Committee met at the Faculty of Public Health for a meeting on 1 August; half of the meeting was to clarify the role of the register as a regulatory body. The register invited Moragh Loose from the General Dental Council to talk to the meeting about the GDC's role as a regulator and also had input from Jenny Wright and Ros Dunkley, from PHRU.

The UKPHR enjoyed a successful lunchtime reception held during the FPH conference in Cardiff, specifically to celebrate five years of operation of this register. Tony Jewell, the Welsh CMO spoke very positively of the development and work of the register. The first two registrants from both the generalist and defined arms of the register namely Andrew Jones and Malcolm Ward also contributed.

This event was well attended by those who were involved in the development of the register before the opening five years ago, including Nicky Coates who was involved through the RIPH, Fiona Sim who was then at DH and gave the register great support as well as currently Board members, some of whom have been involved for some years.

The Health Promotion representative for the Board is yet to be identified by the four Departments of Health. A representative will be nominated shortly.

Jim McEwen has recently written to the Scottish Government regarding the definition of a 'competent person' as mentioned in the Scottish Public Health Bill advising that there should be equivalence for all in a consultant position regardless of which route has been completed to obtain registration with the GMC or the UKPHR.

The constitution is being taken forward to establish a new UKPHR Board, and the UKPHR Board today recommended that Fiona Sim be appointed as Registrar for this register. Regulatory bodies, as recommended in the White Paper on the future of regulation should have a large number of lay representatives on a Board.

Lillian Somervaille spoke about the practitioner project. The alpha pilot for the project was extensive, and has gained a huge amount of interest with a large number of participants and very positive feedback. There were some queries on accessibility and although the general applicability appears to be acceptable it must be ensured that the standards cover those outside the NHS. It was proposed that the project should move to consultation around the process of registration. Further news will be available on this shortly through the website.

Eighteen months ago the register produced a document on the various current routes to gain admission to the register and included routes to be considered at a later stage. A proposal has now been prepared by CIEH on a combined retrospective/prospective route. This paper was taken to the Executive Committee meeting on 1 August and the CIEH Council last week, and the Council approved it. This is the first model to be considered and is in no way intended to be exclusive to environmental health. The Board agreed the proposal in principle and looks forward to receiving the definitive proposal.

Trainee registration was discussed at the last Board meeting and this has now been discussed with the training directors. This registration will now proceed after consultation with the trainees. This is for those trainees who are on the FPH training scheme but who are not registered during their training with another regulatory body; the medically qualified trainees are currently registered with the GMC.

At the Registration Panel this morning there were thirteen applications considered and seven of these were recommended for admission to the register. Development days are being organised for assessors and these will run through to January.

The dates for the next two scheduled meetings of the UKPHR Board are 11 November 2008 and 20 January 2009.