

Summary

Minutes of the meeting of the UKPHR Board held on 18 January 2011 at the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health at 2.00pm

Present:	Peter Farley George Morris Duncan Rudkin Alison Wall Sara Roberts Steve George David Williams Fiona Sim David Pattison Naresh Chada Zoe Clark Sarah North (Secretary)	Lillian Somervaille Paul Robinson Charlotte Ashton Fiona Harris Nick Kendall Tim Everett Neil Roberts Amy Nicholas Chris Tudor Smith Paul Scourfield Rodrigo Voss
Attending:	Cerilan Rogers Jenny Griffiths Klim McPherson	

Peter Farley welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed the attendance of a different representative for Dental Public Health: Nick Kendall. Also additional attendees today, Klim McPherson who chaired the UKPHR Advisory Group, held this morning, and also to Jenny Griffiths, the UKPHR moderator and Cerilan Rogers, currently a UKPHR assessor.

Apologies were received from Antony Townsend, Jonathan Sexton, Amanda Little and Judy Jones.

There are representatives today attending from the three devolved administrations, but no representative from Department of Health England. The Board expressed concern as with the publication of the Public Health Regulatory Review and the Public Health White Paper, with its probable impact on the public health workforce, representation would have been welcomed. The input from the DH/Government departments is valued and useful and the Board is grateful for the attendance.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

The minutes were approved from the November meeting, and the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting in December 2010 were noted for information by the Board.

The UKPHR has released an initial response covering the PH White Paper and the PH Regulatory Review. This is on the UKPHR website and has been disseminated to stakeholders and interested parties. The Board are asked to consider this today as the basis for a formal response and input was welcomed from all Board members, including then observers.

A suitable formal response will be formulated regarding the Public Health White Paper bearing in mind that this covers only England and separate correspondence will be sent to the four Chief Medical Officers regarding the Public Health Regulatory Review as this was commissioned by the four UK countries. Peter Farley advised that at the Stakeholder event held on the launch day of the Public Health White Paper in November that although the White Paper was made available at the launch, the Public Health Regulatory Review was made available only at the end of the day. There were no specific launches in the four countries for the for the Public Health Regulatory Review.

The Board was asked to note that Sue Lloyd, a current UKPHR registrant who also worked on risk assessment for the Public Health Regulatory Review is undertaking an enhanced risk assessment for the UKPHR and some findings from this work will be fed into the UKPHR response. The Board was asked to note that risk assessment for the Public Health Regulatory Review was only for generalist specialists and not for defined specialist who were not included in the recommendations of the review.

The UKPHR Advisory Group met this morning and it considered that the Public Health White Paper and the Public Health Regulatory Review are very medically and NHS orientated, and do not reflect multidisciplinary public health. The UKPHR covers those outside of the NHS and this should be noted. The breadth of discussion from the Advisory Group is very useful and valued, as participants do come from outside of health and has lay members. The Advisory Group will feed comments into the UKPHR formal response.

There is scope for the introduction of a smaller group involving membership bodies and public health associated bodies to discuss regulatory issues further, in light of the government consultations and changes to the public health workforce, and this suggestion will be taken forward.

It is also imperative at this time to engage with the UKPHR stakeholders and registrants to urge them to respond to the consultations. It should be noted that there are two additional consultations that may require additional responses from the UKPHR that are connected to the Public Health White Paper. These are 'Funding and Commissioning Routes for Public Health' and 'Transparency in Outcomes, Proposals for a Public Health Outcomes Framework'.

The UKPHR commissioned Cumberlege Connections to do a future options assessment for the UKPHR post publication of the Public Health White Paper and the Public Health Regulatory Review. This was an informative report and one very relevant point which arose from registrants was a lack of understanding as to the role of a regulator, and this the Board agreed must be addressed through better communication to registrants.

The Board agreed that the financial sustainability and public safety aspects need to be mentioned in the response letter regarding the PHRR to the four CMOs. Also the question surrounding transitional funding until a decision is made as to the future of the UKPHR.

The UKPHR Board in November agreed to open the register to practitioners in the next financial year. The assessment process is a devolved process and the pilot programmes are going well – Wales is developing quickly and the other regional projects in South Central, Kent and Medway are continuing. Another project in the West Midlands will be commenced shortly. There is great enthusiasm from practitioners for this registration. The work had been lead by Lillian Somerville and Jenny Griffiths.

Internal policy and process issues are being considered and good progress is being made. The Board requested that it see the business plan and risk assessment at the next Board meeting, where a decision on the fees will be reached.

The Board approved in principle, the option for individuals to be registered both on the defined register and the generalist register. Options to move onto either register have been considered and the process will now be finalised.

The Board agreed that after the defined specialist route had been open for a time that the route and its processes would be reviewed. It has been agreed that review will be commissioned to review both the defined and generalist routes and a scoping exercise has been approved and a team to do the work has now been identified.

The Board saw a report from the Registration Panel, and a verbal update from this morning was given when 6 new registrants were admitted. The total on the register is now 472.

Work is continuing on the development of the UKPHR website and work will start on the revised website shortly.

The UKPHR Education and Training Committee met this morning. The UKPHR will be approaching the deaneries concerning a trainee placement survey for the trainees who are not medically qualified, as those who are medically qualified are currently surveyed by the GMC. It will also work with the GMC.

No fitness to practise cases or issues were reported to the Board.

There is ongoing work with the FPH on revalidation and the Board were advised that some UKPHR registrants are involved in the FPH revalidation pilot. A statement regarding the requirement of an appraisal has been placed on the UKPHR website and will be in the FPH bulletin in February. This is an important part of the revalidation process.

Jenny Griffiths, the UKPHR moderator has completed another year in this role and provided a report for the Board. The purpose of the moderation process is to ensure that there are robust consistent standards applied in the assessment process, measured against CHRE standards. From the moderation done this year there have been no major concerns with assessment. It was also reported that the assessors have attended development days this year. It is a requirement that they attend one development day in an eighteen month period and these have proved to be a useful forum for open discussion and development of the assessors role. The Board paid thanks to Jenny Griffiths for all her work and time given over the past year.

A new moderator has been approved by the UKPHR Board. It is Cerilan Rogers who is a UKPHR assessor and has been since the UKPHRs inception. This appointment is welcomed as she is a very experienced and valued assessor.

The risk register will be brought to the Board in March and will be updated in regard to the opening of the practitioner registration.

A draft response on the consultation 'Funding and Commissioning Routes for Public Health' will be brought to the next Board.

The next meetings are on 8 March 2011 and 10 May 2011.