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MINUTES of the third meeting of the Shadow Health Professions Council's Education and Training Committee held on Friday 15 March 2002 at Park House, 184 Kennington Park Road, London SE11 4BU

Present :

Ms Eileen Thornton (Chairing)
Mrs. Shaheen Chaudhry
Mr. Michael Collins
Ms Helen Davis
Ms Christine Farrell
Mr. Laurence Hughes
Prof. Rosemary Klem
Ms Gill Pearson
Ms Pamela Sabine

Also in Attendance

Dr. Peter Burley – Secretary
Mr. Greg Ross-Sampson

ITEM 1 02/27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from :- Prof. Norma Brook, Miss Mary Crawford, Mr. Paul Frowen, Prof. Tony Hazell, Dr. Robert Jones, Mr. Colin Lea, Prof. Jeff Lucas, Mr. Marc Seale, Mr. Gordon Sutehall, and Prof. Diane Waller.
- 1.2 It was noted in this context that Mr. Laurence Hughes would be resigning from the Council.

ITEM 2 02/28 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

On the recommendation of the Chairman,

It was

RESOLVED (1)

that the agenda be approved.

ITEM 3 02/29 MINUTES

It was agreed that the minutes of the second meeting of the Shadow Health Professions Council's Education and Training Committee held on 13 February 2002 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

ITEM 4 02/30 MATTERS ARISING

- 4.1 The Committee received the Secretary's report.
- 4.2 It was agreed that the quarterly forum of wider educational interests should be called still the " Educationalists Forum ". Its composition would become clearer after HPC had made its own initial appointments. In the meantime members were asked to make any suggestions on changes to membership. The Secretary at the same time would prepare terms of reference for the Forum to be presented to the meeting on 1 May 2002.

ITEM 5 02/31 SECRETARY'S REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP ISSUES

- 5.1 The Secretary reported that discussions were continuing to regularise the membership of the Committee after 1 April 2002 and to preserve cross-membership with the Registration Committee.
- 5.2 The Secretary reported that there would be a seminar run by the Allied Health Professions Forum project on CPD on 26 March 2002 to look at outcome-based competences. The two committee members on the project steering group were unable to attend and the Committee asked Ms Farrell to attend on its behalf.

ITEM 6 02/32 UP-DATE ON STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY

- 6.1 The Secretary reported that the Chairman had now forwarded the brief to QAA for discussion with them.
- 6.2 Members raised a concern again that the different types of Standards and benchmarks be closely defined and that there be no risk of vitiating standards of safe and effective practice by moving away from Subject Benchmarks. Members asked the secretary to produce a flow chart outlining the relationship between the different concepts in order to ensure a better understanding of the differences and help the Committee in further discussions. The Standards of Proficiency should be more about what the practitioners did as opposed to what they learned.

6.3 It was noted that the Standards of Proficiency would be elaborated for pre-registration courses in the Standards for Outcomes of approved education and training (which might be the existing Subject Benchmarks). Registrants relying solely on the Standards of Proficiency would also still need to comply with Statements of Conduct and CPD requirements in due course. The information about ethics and scope of practice would also inform the Standards of Proficiency.

6.4 The ability to undertake CPD would need to be part of the Standard of Proficiency.

ITEM 7 02/33 PROPOSALS FOR A SPECIAL EDUCATION BOARD FOR SCOTLAND

Deferred.

ITEM 8 02/34 REPORT ON THE DoH / QAA PROTOTYPE REVIEWS AND PROGRESS ON SUBJECT BENCHMARKING

8.1 The Secretary relayed a report from Prof. Jeff Lucas that the prototype academic reviews were now underway. There were three phases :

Phase I – review of information and training of reviewers – completed;

Phase II – the reviews themselves, two of which had taken place at Sheffield Hallam University and Worcester University College (NB. no AHPs there) with observation of practice; and

Phase III – reflection and evaluation (September – November 2002).

8.2 The Secretary reported that DoH and the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) had invited the President of Council and the Chairman and vice-chairmen of the Committee to discuss strategic issues on 30 April 2002.

ITEM 9 02/35 HPC's PROJECT PLAN

9.1 The ETC's extract from the plan was presented by Mr. Greg Ross-Sampson. He stressed :

- the Registration Committee's work was included under the ETC heading for reasons of the text of the Order,
- the dates for completion by 30 June 2002 were only for identifying options,
- there needed to be comprehensive coverage of the requirements of the OIC in the initial consultation to minimise the risk of having to duplicate consultations or important items being overlooked, and
- consultation events would be held around the UK.

9.2 It was agreed that the Standards of Proficiency could beneficially be progressed to achieve a level of detail faster than some other activities.

- 9.3 On CPD it was agreed that the consultation needed to take account of the DoH's AHPF project on demonstrating competence but might realistically only identify broad options in the time available.
- 9.4 There would be a seminar run by the AHPF project on 26 March and another steering group meeting on 29 April 2002. It was agreed that issues around the need for a robust contribution on CPD in the consultation paper would be raised at these meetings.
- 9.5 The Committee confirmed that it wished to meet the Council's timetable for consultation but alerted the Council to the need for a robust paper to be ready by then, and that it could not guarantee what level of detail could be available on education and training matters.
- 9.6 It was agreed to distribute an elaboration and up-date of the project plan.
- 9.7 It was agreed that dedicated time needed to be set aside for a larger discussion of the CPD issues on 1 May 2002 or at an appropriate additional meeting.
- 9.8 The consultation should make provision for discussion of how HPC might receive the equivalent advice that CPSM gained from the Educationalists nominated by the Secretary of State for Education & Skills jointly with the Scottish Executive.

ITEM 10 02/36 DoH COMMON LEARNING LEADING EDGE SITES PROGRAMME

- 10.1 The Committee received the DoH press release and correspondence.
- 10.2 The Committee noted that Prof. Lucas had been appointed to the Steering Group for the project.

ITEM 11 02/37 UNREGULATED CHIROPODY COURSES IN THE UK

- 11.1 Ms Pam Sabine reported that DoH had set up a working party on these courses of which she and the President were members. This work now operated in SHPC under the auspices of the Registration Committee.
- 11.2 The DoH was seeking to broker some agreement between the regulated and unregulated sectors prior to grandfathering. There seemed to be between 3,500 and 8,500 unregistered practitioners potentially involved.
- 11.3 The Registration Committee had reached the point of identifying " areas of possible concern for consideration " around differences between the approved and the unregulated courses. Assessment rather than " validation " visits would be taking place.
- 11.4 An HEI had taken an interest in taking students from the unregulated courses by Accreditation of Prior Experience and Learning. This might lead to a proposal for a new degree course, whose consideration would follow proper procedures at ETC if submitted.

- 11.5 The Committee noted, though, that if HPC were asked to approve a qualification for registration which could not meet the definitions of a "diploma" awarded by a "competent authority" for the purposes of European Directives (89/48 and 92/51) there would be very significant implications for all the professions at HPC.

ITEM 12 02/38 DoH MODERNISING AHP EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMME

The Secretary reported that he was continuing to receive positive feedback from the approved sites. Meetings had been held with two sites, discussions held with two further sites, and there was to be a conference on 18 April 2002 on a fifth site.

ITEM 13 02/39 LIAISON WITH THE UK COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION

The Chairman reported attending UKCGE's winter conference. The Chairman commended members to consult its web-site at www.ukcge.ac.uk and also commended HPC to enter into formal membership. There was a project on research in the health professions underway co-ordinated by Prof. Dave Baxter, a physiotherapist from the University of Ulster. The Council might move into areas relevant to CPD in the future. The Council should be invited to the next meeting of the Educationalists Forum.

ITEM 14 02/40 SHADOW NURSING AND MIDWIFERY COUNCIL'S QA CONSULTATION

The Committee received this paper.

ITEM 15 02/41 EXTRACT FROM DoH PAPER "INVOLVING PATIENTS"

Noted and welcomed.

ITEM 16 02/42 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ITEM 17 02/43 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 17.1 It was agreed to cancel the meeting on 25 March 2002.
- 17.2 The next scheduled meeting would be on 1 May 2002, but with the Secretariat to investigate the desirability of an additional meeting, or discussion session, to make a fuller in-put to the consultation exercise.
- 17.3 It was agreed to ask the Secretariat to prepare a new schedule of autumn meetings.

CHAIRMAN

