

Public patient involvement (outline) notes.

Working towards a Patient and Public Involvement Strategy

Aim; Develop a strategy that ensures effective patient and public involvement in the work of the Health Professions Council (HPC)

Introduction

Patient and public involvement (PPI) is enshrined in the Health Professions Order 2001 which gives the Health Professions Council (HPC) its powers. 3 (13) sets out one of the duties of Council as being:

3 (13) The Council shall inform and educate registrants, and shall inform the public about its work.

Furthermore paragraph 14 (c) states:

(14) Before establishing any standards or giving any guidance under this Order the Council shall consult representatives of any group of persons it considers appropriate including, as it sees fit, representatives of –

(c) users of the services of registrants

The Communications Strategy established in April 2002 set out a program of work for the Council to undertake which would ensure these duties were fulfilled.

Having successfully implemented the first three years of the communications strategy the time is right to look specifically at the strategy in terms of its public patient involvement and draw up plans for the next few years.

Decision

The Committee is asked to discuss the following paper and work-plan as well as the work-plan of the joint PPI group. Committee may also wish to nominate a member to sit of the joint PPI group.

Background information

HPC currently participates in the joint regulators PPI Group hosted by the General Chiropractic Council (GCC) and participated in by all UK health regulators. The aim of the group is to develop a PPI strategy that all health regulators can sign up to.

Please read this paper in conjunction with the three documents attached:

- Joint UK Health and Social Care Regulators' PPI Group 'Terms of Reference'
- Joint UK Health and Social Care Regulators' PPI Group National 'Budget' Annex A
- UK Health and Social Care Regulators' Public and Patient Involvement Group 2 September 2005 'Minutes'

Resource implications

Stakeholder Manager to be main lead in first year, additional Policy Officer required 06 for future development

Financial implications

Joint regulators PPI group £10,000 per annum (project by project basis)
Second Policy Officer (£25-£30,000) post April 2006

Public Patient Involvement – Policy (draft)**Introduction**

HPC recognises the importance of the engaging with public and patient groups. Indeed engagement such as this is part of its statutory duties under the Health Professions Order 2001. The Communications Strategy has therefore incorporated the following stated aims and objectives as part of its annual plan since 2002.

Aim; Ensure that the public are involved and informed in HPC's work

Objectives:

- Devising a plan for on-going public involvement
- Engage with external organisations and forums dedicated to patient, public involvement
- Use feedback from the 2004 public involvement forum to feed future strategies
- Inform Council decision making and Executive operations of significant development or future schemes
- Ensure independence of any research and/or programme undertaken

Work to date

To date HPC has completed the following program of work in relation to the above objectives;

- 2002 and 2005 Omnibus survey's of over 2,000 members of public on regulation and the Health Professions Council
- Joint membership of the health regulators PPI Group hosted by the General Chiropractic Council
- 2004, Patients Forum with 102 members of the public engaged in Focus Groups discussing HPC and health regulation in general
- Crystal marked website and patients leaflets
- Over 20 'listening events' across the UK
- Over 70 consultation events with over 10,000 people attending
- Public advertising and awareness campaigns with independent research among members of the public
- Development of customer service area within HPC looking at improving service and accountability to the public
- Conference attendance and both professional and public

- Production of over 20 brochures outlining the work of HPC
- Production of three annual reports and two fitness to practise annual reports
- Burgeoning media relations function

Current position

HPC has undertaken a lot of work under their general communications strategy and now needs to align its activities to a more focused PPI strategy.

To maximise resources in this area HPC has joined with the other health and social care regulators to identify ways in which they can work together to enhance the role of patient and public involvement within health and social care regulation.

Terms of Reference, a mission statement and work plan are attached in the Annex. The Committee will note that HPC is taking the lead on some projects, notably the wording of the website pages, and is an active participant in others. Each project has individual costs attached to it and it is up to each regulator to decide on the projects they wish to engage in.

HPC will continue to be a supporter of this group and its objectives and until such a time that it produces its own strategy will use the work of the group as the principles under which it operates a PPI policy.

Future position

HPC will deliver a PPI strategy that draws upon the work of the joint regulators PPI group by May 2006. It will use the next six months to identify groups with whom it could potentially partner in the future and build their participation into the strategy. The strategy will follow the principles of the Kennedy Report on the Bristol Royal Infirmary which were designed to lead to genuine patient and public involvement and greater transparency and openness in decision making. The strategy should ensure that it addresses the following points:

- Ensure involvement of patients and public is embedded into HPC
- Show a commitment to improving services offered to patients and the public
- Deliver increased confidence in our work by the general public and patients
- Ensure it identifies priority groups with whom to engage
- Provides that the mechanisms for involvement must be continuously evaluated for their effectiveness
- Commits HPC to acting upon the outcomes of its engagement and openly showing how it has done so
- Ensure any dialogue is ongoing and that it clearly demonstrates an improved working relationship with the patients and the public.
- Accessibility to a wide range of groups is ensured

HPC Work Programme

2005 – February 2006

- Continued membership of joint regulators PPI – feedback to Communications Committee of on going work.
- Individual audit of patient groups, representative organisations, academic and charitable organisations
- Lay member of HPC Communications Committee to join joint regulators group

February 27th 2006

- Continued membership of joint PPI group
- Delivery of draft HPC PPI Policy for Communications Committee review
- Update of joint regulators PPI group

May 24th 2006

- Continued membership of joint PPI group
- Communications Committee view final draft of HPC PPI policy and sign off

July 6th 2006

- Continued membership of joint PPI group
- Council sign of policy document

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