

Education and Training Committee

Notes of a strategy discussion held on 25 March 2009 at 3.00 pm

Park House, 184 Kennington Park Road, London, SE11 4BU

Present: Ms E Thornton (Chairman)
Professor K Bryan
Ms H Davis
Mrs S Drayton
Professor J Harper (part)
Dr S Hutchins
Professor C Lloyd
Professor J Lucas
Mr A Mount
Ms P Sabine
Mr J Seneviratne
Mrs B Stuart
Professor D Waller
Mr N Willis (part)

In attendance:

Mr O Ammar, Education Manager
Mr C Bendall, Secretary to the Committee (meeting note)
Mr B Edmonds, Education Officer
Mrs A Gorringe, Director of Education
Ms R Greig, Education Officer
Mr M Guthrie, Acting Director of Policy and Standards
Ms A Hargood, Education Officer
Ms T Samuel-Smith, Education Manager
Ms A Shomefun, Education Officer
Mr N Strevett, Education Officer

The Committee was asked to discuss developments over the next few years which would have an impact on its work.

Members identified the following issues:

- Significant challenges would be presented by extending the scope of regulation (new professions such as psychotherapists and counsellors; and complementary and

alternative medicine; regulation of support workers and assistants). It was likely that some professions would have very different forms of education and training, possibly not delivered through higher education and likely to be private provision. These programmes might result in an award which did not relate to academic levels. It was therefore possible that HPC would have to be more flexible in its requirements for education and training and perhaps require a certain level of qualification rather than a specified award. Significant expansion of regulation would place additional demands on HPC's resources and finances;

- Delivery of programmes was likely to become more diverse. Distance learning was likely to become more prevalent and there was the possibility of links between UK and overseas providers. HPC would need to review the issue of dual certification/dual awards;
- Higher education institutions were more likely to be asked to validate other provision, including private provision;
- HPC's current approach tended to rely on curriculum guidance being produced by the profession, but this was lacking in some professions. It was suggested that HPC could ensure curriculum guidance was produced, through partnership working with professional bodies;
- HPC needed to ensure that its terminology and language would be appropriate for a wide range of professions;
- If the Modernising Scientific Careers project was implemented, this would require registration of healthcare scientists at three different points, with standards of proficiency required at each point;
- HPC would need to ensure appropriate and proportionate contact with all four home countries of the UK;
- The restructured Council would present challenges in communicating with the professions, as not every profession would be represented on the Council. The membership of the Education and Training Committee was expected to be larger, with the intention that there would be representation from each profession.

It was agreed that it would be useful to include a strategy discussion on the agenda for each December meeting of the Committee, as part of the development of workplans for the next financial year.