

Education and Training Committee – 10 March 2011

Reports from Council representatives at external meetings

Executive Summary and Recommendations

**Introduction**

The attached feedback form has been received from Annie Turner.

**Decision**

The Committee is requested to note the documents.

**Background information**

None

**Resource implications**

None

**Financial implications**

The cost for attendance at conferences/meetings has been incorporated into the Council annual budget.

**Background papers**

None

**Appendices**

Copies of feedback forms

**Date of paper**

27 May 2011

<b>Name of Council Member</b>	<b>Annie Turner</b>
<b>Title of event</b>	<b>HEALTH network group</b>
<b>Date of event</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011</b>
<b>Approximate attendance at event</b>	<b>10</b>

### **Issues of Relevance to HPC**

Due to a considerable loss of central finance (around 30%) by the Higher Education Academy the future of the structure of the Academy and its advisory boards is uncertain.

The board, now chaired by Ros Jowett, representative from the Council of Deans of Health, was given an update. The value of the existing 24 boards, of which the health board is the largest, is to be reviewed. The new structure sees 4 subject centres only – Stem (core sciences), Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences and Health. The Health subject centre is to contain 3 groups – medicine and dentistry, nursing and midwifery and other health related studies. The board felt that this structure was backward looking and thought that a horizontal structure that captured common areas of practice (e.g. supporting learning in practice, employer engagement, IPE, new ways of working etc) would be more in keeping with current needs and trends than profession based silos.

While there is nothing in the new structure that relates to the roles and functions of the boards it was felt that a number of useful functions (externality, objectivity, policy design and organisation etc) should continue.

Professor Dorothy Whittington, the previous chair of the Board, is undertaking work on how the HEA will continue to work with professional and statutory bodies. At her request, and following conversations with Anna and Abigail, I met with her on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011. The discussion with Dorothy was informative and fruitful. We concluded that HPC's relationship, in whatever form is decided, with HEA boards/subject centres should be wider than just through Health given that the professions we regulate are split between a range of the new subject groupings (e.g. social work is in Social Sciences while psychology is in Arts and Humanities and biomedical science is in Stem). Additionally we recognised that the HEA's remit of quality enhancement was not necessarily in line with the HPC's remit of quality assurance and this made us query the value added by our continued attendance at the board meetings.

Results of all these debates are to be reviewed and future plans and structures will be consolidated.

### **Key Decisions Taken**

- The board is to suggest new, more appropriate structures within the Health group
- A more appropriate way of relating to regulatory bodies as to be suggested as part of Dorothy Whittington's research outcomes
- I will continue to attend the HEALTH network group meetings in the near future until new structures have been decided.