

Fitness to Practise Forum – 24 April 2009

Existing Practice Notes – Fit for Purpose

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

A number of practice notes exist to provide guidance to panels and those involved in fitness to practise proceedings. As part of the fitness to practise department work plan, the executive has undertaken a review of a number of the existing practice notes to ensure that they are fit for purpose and to ensure they reflect current terminology.

The Forum is asked to review and consider the existing practice notes listed below:

- Assessors and Expert Witnesses
- Production and Witness Orders
- Mediation
- Restoration

Decision

The forum is asked to discuss the practice notes and recommend that:

1. The Health and Conduct and Competence Committee approve the Practice Note – **Assessors and Expert Witnesses**
2. The Investigating, Health and Conduct and Competence Committee approve the Practice Note – **Production and Witness Orders**
3. The Investigating, Health and Conduct and Competence Committee approve the Practice Note – **Mediation**
4. The Health and Conduct and Competence Committee approve the Practice Note – **Restoration**

Background information

All practice notes are placed on the HPC website and provided to stakeholders where required. Reference to the appropriate practice notes is provided in standard correspondence.

The governments' current proposals for reform of the constitution of HPC mean that, in future, the practice committees will solely be responsible for adjudicating individual cases and will have no strategic or policy role. If those changes are

implemented then the issue of practice notes will become a responsibility for Council.

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

None

Appendices

- Assessors and Expert Witnesses
- Mediation
- Production and Witness Orders
- Restoration

Date of paper

9 April 2009