

Minutes of the Professional and Regulatory Policy Committee Meeting held virtually on 26 November 2021 via Microsoft Teams.

Agenda Item A - Apologies

Name		Present (Yes/No)
Ms Joanne Kissane (Chair)		y
Prof Brian Kirby (until 12pm)		part
Ms Marie Louisa Power		y
Ms Gráinne Power (joined at 10.15 am)		y
Mr Sean Reilly (joined at 10.15 am)		y
Ms Ann Sheehan		y
Mr Paul Turpin		y
Members of PSI staff in attendance:		
Ms Andrea Boland		
Mr John Bryan		
Mr Niall Byrne		
Ms Ciara Dooley		
Dr Cora Nestor		
Ms Úna Ní Chárthaigh		
Dr Cheryl Stokes		
The Chair welcomed Ms Marie Louisa Power and Gráinne Power as new members of the Committee.		

Agenda Item B - Declaration of Interests

Issue
The Chair invited members of the Committee to declare any conflicts of interest regarding any of the items scheduled for discussion at the meeting before it commenced.

Information

The Chair and Brian Kirby declared a conflict of interest regarding item F on the agenda.

Agenda Item C – Approval of meeting agenda

Issue

The Committee was asked if they were content to proceed with the meeting as per the agenda.

Information

A copy of the meeting agenda had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested

The Committee was advised that agenda item H has been withdrawn from the agenda.

Agenda Item D – Approval of minutes

Issue

Approval of the Minutes of the Professional and Regulatory Committee meeting held on 11 June 2021.

Information

The Chair noted that the draft minutes of the Professional and Regulatory Committee Meeting held on 11 June 2021 had been circulated to Committee members in advance of the meeting and that no amendments had been received.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 11 June, on the proposal of Paul Turpin and seconded by Brian Kirby.

Agenda Item E – External Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Issue

The Committee was provided with an update on the PSI's external response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the COVID-19 vaccination programme. An update on the PSI's external response to COVID-19 was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Information

The Committee discussed the rollout of COVID-19 booster vaccinations in pharmacies. The Committee noted that there is a lack of clarity among the public as to who can receive the COVID booster in pharmacies and that there has been some confusion around this across the profession. The Executive will raise this with the HSE and the National Response Group. The Committee noted the expectation that pharmacy participation in the booster programme is expected to increase from now onwards.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested

Update noted by Committee.

Agenda Item F – Annual Reports from Schools of Pharmacy

Issue

The Committee was asked to consider the recommendation from the Executive that the Annual Reports from each of the Schools of Pharmacy are satisfactory.

Information

The Chair and Brian Kirby declared a conflict of interest with this agenda item and left the meeting. Paul Turpin chaired this agenda item.

The Committee discussed the annual reports of the three Schools of Pharmacy. The Committee was informed that the Schools are required to submit annual reports to the PSI under Education and Training (Integrated Training Course) Rules 2014. The Committee was informed that the annual reports were reviewed by the Chair of the most recent accreditation panel to visit each of the Schools, and the response from each of the Chairs was included with the reports.

The Committee discussed the accreditation process to date, including the composition of the accreditation panels and the other statutory accreditation and quality reviews that the Higher Education Institutes are subject to. The Committee was informed of the process of selecting accreditation panel members and Chair and were advised that panel members are independent.

The Committee was informed that it is the view of the Executive that the annual reports are satisfactory as regards all essential elements and that the reports show that each School of Pharmacy has coped well with the challenges posed by the pandemic during 2020/2021.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested

The Committee considered the recommendation from the Executive and that the reports would be recommended to the Council for approval on the proposal of Louisa Power and seconded by Gráinne Power.

Agenda Item G – Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IOP)

Issue

The Committee was provided with a memo and the IOP's annual draft Workplan for 2022 in advance of the meeting.

Information

The Committee was informed that, as part of the contract that oversees the operation of the IOP, an annual Workplan must be developed in anticipation of the activities to be delivered by the IOP in the upcoming year.

The Committee was informed that the PSI held meetings with the Department of Health and the HSE to identify their needs for training for pharmacists during 2022, and these needs are reflected in the draft Workplan. The Committee was also informed that the Practice Review process will recommence in 2022 following its cancellation due to the public health emergency in 2021.

The Committee discussed the maintenance figures and accreditation costs and the apparent discrepancy between some programmes. The Executive will discuss this with the IOP to gain clarity. The Committee also discussed the funding received by the Department of Health and how the training programmes are decided each year. The Executive stated that the PSI engages with the Department and the HSE and then formulate the relevant training requirements for inclusion in the IOP annual Workplan.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested

The Committee considered the IOP's Annual Workplan and that it be recommended to the Council for approval on the proposal of Ann Sheehan and seconded by Paul Turpin.

Agenda Item H – Registration process for pharmacists

Information

The agenda item had been withdrawn under Agenda Item C.

Agenda Item I – Falsified Medicines Directive

Issue

The Committee was provided with a presentation on the work carried out by PSI to increase compliance in advance of the end of the current “use and learn” period to implement the requirements of the EU Falsified Medicines Directive in Ireland.

Information

The Committee was provided with the number of pharmacies not scanning since the introduction of FMD in 2019 and a comparison of the low rate of decommissioning activity reported in Ireland with that across other EU countries. The Executive stated the PSI has been in contact with pharmacies with low scanning rates. The Committee was advised that there are various factors involved in why scanning and decommissioning rates are at the current level. Some of these relate to hardware and software issues as well as a misunderstanding as to how best to manage FMD requirements within a pharmacy workflow. The IMVO is address software issues, and promote its training and support role to pharmacies. The Committee was also informed of the PSI's ongoing engagement with pharmacies and other stakeholders in relation to FMD and noted that a recent communication was sent to all superintendent pharmacists on FMD compliance and the importance of decommissioning products on a consistent and reliable basis. The Registrar outlined

that PSI's approach in this matter is to engage, explain, encourage and enforce, when necessary. PSI is interacting with pharmacists in a proportionate manner.

The Committee discussed the area of e-prescribing and how FMD requirements would, ideally, be met as part of an integrated e-pharmacy system.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested

The Committee noted the level of work involved and the resources and time that the PSI is putting into FMD. It was also noted the level of work that pharmacies must do concerning FMD. The Committee agreed that it fully endorses the way the PSI is approaching the issue of FMD compliance.

Agenda Item J – Update on Review of the PSI's CPD Model

Issue

The Committee was provided with a memo on the review of the CPD model, a report on the outcome of this year's consultation process and the project health card in advance of the meeting.

Information

The Committee was informed that the review of the CPD system for pharmacists commenced early in 2021, with a series of workshops. This was followed by issuing a survey to pharmacists and relevant stakeholders to seek feedback on the current model.

The Committee was informed of the areas being considered as part of the potential scope for the review project. These include:

1. Identifying what the PSI's key objectives and responsibilities are in developing a CPD system for pharmacists, with reference to the Pharmacy Act and best regulatory practice.
2. Examining and evaluating the current CPD governance and management roles in the performance and delivery of the CPD system as it exists,
3. Recommendations as to how the current CPD model can be adapted, changed or improved to meet the PSI's key objectives and responsibilities in developing a CPD system for pharmacists.
4. Examining the viability, resourcing and sustainability, of any proposed model, giving due consideration to the size of the Pharmacist and Pharmacy Registers.

The Committee discussed the areas being considered in the review and acknowledged the importance of the project under consideration and the considerable scope to be delivered. The Committee noted that reference to specialisation is missing in the current model. The review is an appropriate time to take this into consideration in terms of ensuring any new system is sufficiently adaptable should the need for specialisation arise in the future. The Committee also noted that the retention of pharmacists in the profession is a concern and that the absence of advanced practice opportunities may be contributing to this. The Committee emphasised the importance of

future-proofing pharmacy and pharmacy practice in the interests of both the patient and the health system.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested

The Committee provided their approval of the proposed scope for this project.

Agenda Item L– 2021 Committee Workplan and service planning 2022

Issue

The Committee was provided with an update on a number of projects in its 2021 Committee Workplan and the PSI's draft Service Plan 2022.

Information

- Committee Workplan 2021

The Registrar provided an update on the Committee workplan for 2021 and the status of each project. The Executive was commended on the significant amount of work carried out by PSI staff during 2021.

- Review of the Core Competency Framework for Pharmacists

The Committee was informed that the project Steering Group met on 2 November, and the next steps in the project plan were agreed upon, together with a high-level approach to the re-drafting of the Framework. The Committee was advised that the draft Framework will be brought to Council at its April 2022 meeting, following which it will go out for public consultation.

- Operationalising the PSI Regulatory Risk Register

The Committee was informed that the Regulatory Risk Analysis and Response Group has met on three occasions to discuss potential risks on the Regulatory Risk Register and agree on a formal process for assessing regulatory risks. Once completed and agreed upon, this will be rolled out across all staff. The Committee was informed that meetings have also been conducted internally concerning the data that the PSI holds, which will inform the development and design of structures to be put in place to operationalise the Risk Statement.

- Reform of the Pharmacy Act

The Committee was advised that there is an advanced draft of PSI's position paper on 'the need for reform of the Pharmacy Act'. The Committee was also advised that stakeholders have also been contacted for their perspectives.

- Draft Service Plan 2022

The Registrar provided an update on projects contained in the Service Plan for 2022. The Registrar also noted that this is a working document and will be in draft form until submitted for the Council meeting in December. The Committee noted the high number of projects in the Service Plan for 2022.

The Committee also discussed the workforce planning project; its importance and the need to consider regulatory burden as one aspect of the project. The Executive agreed that PSI is committed to this project and adopting a new approach to recognising qualifications from third-country applicants (TCQR).

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested

Updates noted by Committee.

Agenda Item M – AOB and Plus-Delta

Issue

Any other business, proposed meeting dates for 2022, Plus Delta feedback.

Information

The Chair noted that this was Niall Byrne's last meeting, and he would be leaving the PSI at the end of the year. The Chair and Committee members thanked him for his valuable contributions over the last number of years.

Plus Delta

Plus +

- Very good introduction of items by staff
- Constructive and informed contributions from committee members
- Meeting had a very good atmosphere
- Well chaired

Delta Δ

- Three hours is long, and some scope to tighten time allowed

The meeting concluded at: 1.15pm

Signed by:

Chair

Date