

CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes of meeting of UKPHR's Education and Standards Committee
held on Thursday 28 March 2024 by Microsoft Teams

At 14.30hrs

Present:

NAME	FOR MINUTES	ORGANISATION
Ranjit Khutan	Chair	UKPHR's Board
Gill Jones	GJ	UKPHR Registrar
David Evans	DE	UKPHR's Board
Marianne Coward	MC	UKPHR's Board
Ben Humphrey	BH	UKPHR's Board
Carol Stewart	CS	UKPHR SRbPA Moderator
Kate Lees	KL	UKPHR Practitioner Moderator
William Roberts	WR	Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH)
Joanna Dowd	JD	UKPHR's Board
Zaira Ejaz	ZE	Secretariat, UKPHR

Apologies:

NAME	ORGANISATION
Jessica Lichtenstein	UKPHR CEO
Fiona MacDonald	Public Health Scotland
Jenny Douglas	UKPHR Board

1. Welcome, apologies and declaration of interest

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance and apologies were all listed above. There were no new declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 03 October 2023 were agreed as a true record.

3. Action Points and matters arising

The Chair noted the action points as follows:

Action: JL to update EDI submission to include recognition of recruitment/progression issues for training.

ZE reported that the recognition of recruitment/progression issues for training was updated and completed as part of the PSA submission in February.

4. Practitioner moderators report

KL presented the practitioner moderators report to the Committee and said that this was produced annually but was paused during the pandemic. This report summarised the activities over the three-year period and going forward, this will be produced on an annual basis from now on. The Committee were happy with the report and the recommendations to the Board.

5. CEO update

Public Health Level 6 Apprenticeships

The first cohort of apprenticeships have now graduated and UKPHR has its first registrant via the apprenticeship route. UKPHR practitioner moderators were the assessors for this first cohort. There were some concern about the assessment process for apprentices, however this will be considered as part of the evaluation in 2025. There is still some concern about apprenticeship endpoint assessors being taken from the devolved scheme assessors as the number of apprentices and graduates grows. Preparations are being made for the University of West England end point assessment in June and the second cohort for the University of Salford is being planned for the autumn. The central pool of assessors needs to be explored further due to the different HR requirements across the providers. UKPHR is considering setting up a task and finish group to ensure appropriate arrangements are in place for independent assessors of apprenticeship end point assessments.

The Committee noted the update and there was some discussion on the expected numbers of apprentices that would be completing their apprenticeships. Due to concerns around assessment and challenges for universities and employers, the numbers would gradually increase at a slow pace. It is difficult to quantify whether the pool of practitioner assessors was a legitimate concern as the process is quite new. It was suggested that mapping out the likely numbers of apprentices needing end point assessments would be a good indicator to identify any concerns. Following the experience of assessing end point assessments for the University of Salford, it was found that there was a need for verifiers. It was suggested that there may be some reflection needed on addressing the systemic challenges of apprenticeships as the numbers increase and what can be done to improve this. The Committee recognised the issues around capacity of the workforce and suggested that this may be something for the Board to consider on how to address this going forward for apprenticeships and ensuring the right support is put in place for future.

Action: The Board to consider addressing the issue of capacity for assessors of end point assessments and ensure the right support is put in place for the pool of assessors.

Action: Consider contacting Universities who provide the apprenticeship to identify numbers of apprentices who will need end point assessments in the next few years.

SRbPA

UKPHR has had its third meeting of the SRbPA light touch review and there remains a lot of engagement and goodwill from the group on how to streamline and improve the process. Three development sessions have been delivered for the London Public Health consortium and London has identified some funding to support SRbPA applicants through the process. UKPHR is currently recruiting for an additional Vice Chair of the Registration Panel. This has been successful, and the Committee will be informed shortly of the new person who has been recruited.

The Committee noted this update and said that the quality of pre-applications for the SRbPA route have improved and the guidance and information sessions have helped significantly with this.

Regulatory Issues

UKPHR first experienced the GMC threatening to take regulatory action after some issues were identified with the Diplomate examination. The issues have since been resolved and the GMC were satisfied with the detailed improvement plan by the Faculty of Public Health so no further action was taken. As a result of this, UKPHR has identified the need to develop a policy on how it should respond when other regulators identify issues that could impact on UKPHR registration. The Committee noted the progress on this.

The revised Medical Act is law which provides GMC the power to regulate Medical Associated Professions – Physician Associates and Anaesthetic Assistants. UKPHR will keep monitoring whether there are any implications for other healthcare professions both within and outside of the statutory framework. EF informed the Committee that the GMC regulatory powers for Physician Associates and Anaesthetic Assistants was currently in the implementation phase until they are regulated. A number of colleges about the impact of the new regulation and further work on clarifying the scope of practice between a specialist in public health and a practitioner in public health was needed.

PSA

UKPHR submitted its annual return to the PSA in February, and it was due for a full assessment rather than the usual light touch assessment requiring us to report on all the standards except for ED&I. The Committee noted this update.

ED&I

UKPHR continues to collect data on ED&I for new registrants on all protected characteristics and addressing the gaps for existing registrants in the upcoming renewal season. ED&I training was delivered by the new Practitioner Registration lead to the UKPHR team and it will be looked into how to adapt this training to the wider workforce. The Committee noted this update.

6. Any other business

ZE reported that following the updated version of Good Medical Practice that was published at the beginning of this year, the Faculty of Public Health will be undertaking work to update the Good Public Health Practice. The Committee will be informed once work has started on this.

The Associate Category of registration has been added to UKPHR's 24/25 operational plan and a task and finish group will be formed to start this work imminently. The Committee will be updated as this progresses.

CS raised a concern about a person who was appointed to a Consultant in Public Health post however their portfolio for UKPHR registration was currently being assessed and they were not registered. Following discussion, it was noted that those who are appointed to a Consultant in Public Health post must be suitably registered, and it was recommended that this should be taken forward and raised by UKPHR.

7. Next meeting

Tuesday 23rd July 2024 at 14.30hrs was proposed and agreed.