

Board meeting

Minutes of meeting

20 July 2016

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Present

George Jenkins (Chair)
Harry Cayton (CE)
Renata Drinkwater
Ian Hamer
Andrew Hind
Antony Townsend
Jayne Scott

Apologies

Stuart MacDonnell

In Attendance

Linda Allan
Christine Braithwaite
Mark Stobbs
Marija Hume
Majida Serroukh (secretariat)

Observers

Graham Mockler (Head of Accreditation)
Eureka Chung (Hong Kong FHA)
Silvia Dominici (NMC)

1. Welcome and Introductions & Declarations of Interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

2.1 There were apologies from Stuart McDonnell for the meeting.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 26 May 2016

3.1 The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from meeting held on 26 May 2016

4.1 There were no matters arising not otherwise on the agenda.

5. Chair's report

5.1 The Chair had met with the recently appointed chair of the CQC, Peter Wyman. They had agreed to co-operate and to build the relationship between the two organisations.

5.2 The chair had spoken at the GMC Board away-day. He had outlined the Authority's thinking on a range of regulatory issues and there had been a constructive discussion.

6. Executive report

- 6.1 Ben Gummer MP had left the Department of Health having been promoted to Minister for the Cabinet Office. The new minister in the Department of Health is Philip Dunne MP.

Health Committee

- 6.2 The Authority had given evidence to the Health Committee on 5 July 2016. It had been represented by the Chair, the Chief Executive and by the Assistant Director of Scrutiny and Quality. The Committee had been thorough in their questioning; they had given considerable time to *Rethinking Regulation*, to the Authority's views on the regulators and registers and had raised a number of specific cases which we had subsequently written to the Committee Chair about.
- 6.3 The full transcript was available. The Health Committee had asked the regulatory bodies for their views of the Authority, the submissions were also now published.

Performance Review

- 6.4 Work had been started on a review of the Standards of Good Regulation; this would be led by Teena Chowdhury. In the longer term there would be a formal consultation but initially we would be seeking the views of patients, service users and the public.

Section 29

- 6.5 The Authority was in the High Court on 20 July 2016 appealing against an NMC decision.
- 6.6 The Court of Session had handed down its judgement in the GDC case. This was an appeal which the Authority had lost. The Court had not agreed that there had been under-prosecution in the case and therefore did not consider the sanction insufficient.
- 6.7 The GMC would be appealing against a decision of the MPTS for their first time under its new powers. The Authority had also reviewed the case and had decided to join the GMC's appeal. We are in discussion with the GMC about a protocol for the exchange of information in the hope of simplifying and reducing the cost of duplication.

Legislative reforms

- 6.8 Following the referendum vote and the changes to Cabinet and other ministers it was not clear if the drive for legislative reform would continue. However lacking instructions to the contrary officials were still preparing for a consultation in the autumn.

Annual Report and Accounts

- 6.9 The Annual Report and Accounts was laid on 30 June 2016 in all four Parliaments and Assemblies. A post-balance sheet note had been added in relation to the referendum result.
- 6.10 The Chief Executive thanked Linda Allan, Marija Hume and the finance team for their excellent work in ensuring a clear audit.

Fees Consultation

- 6.11 A provisional budget for 2017/18 was being prepared and a fee consultation document drafted this would come to the Board in September with a view to the consultation starting before the end of that month.

Appointments to the Board

- 6.12 Saxon Bampfylde has been chosen as the Authority's recruitment consultants for this process. Lengthy discussions have taken place with officials in Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland to try to agree a single process and a timetable. George Jenkins will chair all the appointment panels.

7. Finance Report

- 7.1 Overall the Authority had a small overspend at the end of June 2016.
- 7.2 The drivers for the overspend were:
- Less money from s29 recoveries than expected
 - The cost of panel meetings and cost of appeals.
- 7.3 To date this increase was being balanced by savings and underspend on other areas.
- 7.4 A grant towards the Accredited Registers programme was approved by the Department of Health in June 2016 and the first invoice was issued in July 2016.
- 7.5 The Authority was in discussion with The Department of Health regarding reserves and the money held by the Authority.

8. Audit and Risk Committee

- 8.1 The chair of the audit and Risk Committee reported on the Committee's work. The Annual Report and Accounts had been signed off having received a clean audit report from NAO
- 8.2 The internal audit programme for the year was being agreed. Grant Thornton will start with a review of financial controls in August 2016. This was part of the overall assurance framework for the Authority, and links to the need to keep a rolling programme of financial reviews and the risks arising from staff changes.
- 8.3 The Board approved the Audit and Risk Committees Annual Report to the Board.
- 8.4 Andrew Hind expressed the Committee's particular thanks to Linda Allan for her outstanding service to the Committee and the Authority.

9. Performance Review

- 9.1 The Board received the performance review report for the GOsC. The GOsC had met all the Standards of Good Regulation.
- 9.2 The Board welcomed the new style of the report and the summary sheet which was very clear.

9.3 The Board received a timetable for the production of the reviews during the year. The Board recognised that depending on the type of review the length of time each would take from start to finished would vary. However it urged that the period from completion of the review to publishing it be speeded up if possible.

10. Accredited Registers update

10.1 The Board received the update paper.

10.2 The Board welcome Graham Mockler as Head of Accreditation.

10.3 The Board noted that two registers of cosmetic practitioners had been accredited.

10.4 The Board also noted the joint project with the Royal Society of Public Health.

11. Any other business

11.1 There was no other business to report.

12. Questions from members of the public

12.1 Silvia Dominici pointed out that the NMC audit had been pushed back from the 12 to the 18 July.

12.2 The Chair noted that this would be Linda Allan's last Board meeting. He thanked her of behalf of the Authority for all her work and wished her well in the future. She had made a great contribution to the Authority and would be missed.

13. Private session of Board

13.1 The Board went into the private session of the meeting.

Approved by the Board at its meeting on 14 September 2016.