

Summary Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13th & 14th September, 2017.

MEMBERS PRESENT – 13th September, 2017

Dr Anthony Breslin (Vice-President)

Dr John Barragry

Ms Katharine Bulbulia

Ms Anne Carrigy

Mr Fergus Clancy

Dr Audrey Dillon

Dr Rita Doyle

Professor Fidelma Dunne

Dr Bairbre Golden

Dr Ruairi Hanley

Mr Seán Hurley

Professor Alan Johnson

Mr John Nisbet

Professor Colm O’Herlihy

Mr Tom O’Higgins

Dr Michael Ryan

Ms Cornelia Stuart

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Professor Freddie Wood (President)

Ms Vicky Blomfield

Dr Sean Curran

Ms Mary Duff

Professor Mary Leader

Ms Margaret Murphy

Dr Consilia Walsh

MEMBERS PRESENT – 14th September, 2017

Dr Anthony Breslin (Vice-President)

Dr John Barragry

Ms Katharine Bulbulia

Ms Anne Carrigy

Dr Audrey Dillon

Dr Rita Doyle

Professor Fidelma Dunne

Dr Bairbre Golden

Dr Ruairi Hanley

Professor Alan Johnson

Ms Margaret Murphy

Professor Colm O’Herlihy

Mr Tom O’Higgins

Dr Michael Ryan

Ms Cornelia Stuart

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Professor Freddie Wood (President)

Ms Vicky Blomfield

Dr Sean Curran

Mr Fergus Clancy

Ms Mary Duff

Mr Seán Hurley

Professor Mary Leader

Mr John Nisbet

Dr Consilia Walsh

In attendance – full meeting

Mr Bill Prasifka (CEO)
Ms Lisa Molloy (Secretary to Council and Head of Corporate Governance)
Ms Jane Horan (Council & Corporate Governance Manager)
Mr William Kennedy (Director of Regulation)
Ms Niamh Muldoon (Head of Investigations & Complaints; Solicitor)

In attendance – for the relevant parts of the meeting

Ms Wendy Kennedy (Director of Corporate Services)
Ms Úna O'Rourke (Head of Education, Training and Professionalism)
Mr Philip Brady (Director of Registration and Business Process)
Ms Jantze Cotter (Director Professional Development and Research)
Mr John Sidebottom (Head of Inquiries, Health and Monitoring)
Ms Deirdre Foley (Acting Head of Finance)
Ms Ruth Rock (Head of Investigations & Complaints; Solicitor)
Ms Jane O'Brien (Registration Officer)
Ms Ciara McMorrow (Head of Procurement & Facilities)
Ms Marion Mitchell (Human Resource Consultant)
Mr Colin Cooper (Head of ICT)

Private Session:

A private session without members of the Executive present was held. A note of this session was taken by a nominated Council member and provided to the Secretary to Council.

3.1 CEO's Report

The CEO updated Council on the launch of the Annual Report 2016 and Your Training Counts 2016 Report on August 31st. Council noted that there were a number of media representatives in attendance. The CEO went on to thank Dr John Barragry who launched the Annual Report and Dr Audrey Dillon who spoke about the Your Training Counts Report.

The CEO provided an update on HR matters and advised that work is ongoing in relation to the recruitment drive stemming from the work force plan and some other scheduled projects for the year. Recruitment is progressing and a number of key appointments are pending. The CEO advised that the Head of ICT had been recruited and focus is on the Integra 2 upgrade and the Head of ICT is very actively managing Capita during the testing phase.

Council noted that applications for registration are down significantly at -14.3%. As indicated previously, experience is that in Q3 & Q4 application levels run at about 30 to 40% of annual receipts, based on that type of loading the Council cannot expect to achieve application levels consistent with last year. Completion rates are still down slightly on last year, however, the percentage continues to shift downward with the gap between this year and last down to -9.2%.

Council noted updates from the Education, Training and Professionalism section including the Saolta University Healthcare Group report, the Plymouth University Group Report and the meeting with the Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies to discuss potential rationalisation and coordination of inspection visits to clinical training sites.

The CEO advised that the approach for monitoring maintenance of professional competence compliance (PCS enrolment and CPD engagement) has been refined to more effectively target ongoing non-compliance.

The CEO completed his report with an update on a number of stakeholder meetings of note.

Symposium – Addressing the Challenge of Compliance in the Maintenance of Professional Competence

Ms Jantze Cotter provided an update to Council regarding the upcoming Symposium on the 24th October. The Medical Council is partnering with the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies for this event which will focus on addressing the challenge of compliance in the maintenance of professional competence and will facilitate a consultation process to review proposals and suggestions for advancement of the Professional Competence Scheme model, and agree plans as to how enhancements would be operationalised.

Ms Cotter indicated that all interested Council members are welcome to attend and that a follow up email invitation would issue in this regard.

President's Business

Fitness to Practice Committee Inquiry Calendar

The Vice-President informed Council that there are a number of inquiries scheduled that need to be populated and urged members to provide their availability.

Preliminary Proceedings Committee membership

The Vice-President advised Council that with regard to the Council member vacancy that arose when Dr Breslin stepped down to take up the position of Vice-President the matter has now been rectified. Professor O' Herlihy recently returned from leave will resume his membership of the Committee and Dr Barragry who stepped in for Professor O'Herlihy has agreed to stay on as a member of the committee.

Risk Update

Ms Muldoon, Chief Risk Officer presented the draft Risk Management Policy to Council and confirmed that this revised draft is in line both with ISO standards and the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016. Council approved the updated Policy.

Council noted the update provided in relation to the Risk Register, noting the 70 items currently reflected on the risk register, 13 of which are red risk items.

Registration and Continuing Practice Committee (RCPC)

The report of the Registration and Continuing Practice Committee meeting held 17th August, 2017 was presented to Council.

Council was advised that a number of medical practitioners have chosen not to seek a review of the RCPC's decision to refuse registration and the review window is now expired. Council confirmed the decision of the RCPC to refuse registration to the practitioners concerned.

Council noted that Professor Suzanne Donnelly will review developed e-learning modules to identify suitable content for the Safe Start initiative.

The Vice-President advised Council that the CEO and the Director of Registration attended a meeting with other health competent authorities and with officials from the Department of Health to discuss arrangements on Brexit. Council was advised that the Executive will continue to monitor both incoming applications and the Register for any emerging patterns.

Council noted that the Committee had approved the recognition of UK CESR qualifications based on training and experience obtained in EU member states under Section 47(1)(f) be accepted.

Council was advised that the Committee had accepted the recommendation that the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine (FACEM) be considered the equivalent to a Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST) based on the advice of the ICEMT.

The Vice-President advised Council that analysis of the data from the Patient Feedback Pilot had provided recommendations and a number of recommended changes had been made to the Instrument. Council noted that it had also suggested that a further pilot study of at least 200 doctors be carried out to develop the Instrument further. This would be a more efficient way to review all available Patient Feedback tools and consider how to progress the broader implementation of patient and peer feedback tools at the PCS symposium.

Council approved the report of the Registration and Continuing Practice Committee.

Education, Training & Professional Development Committee (ETPDC)

The report of the Education, Training and Professional Development Committee meeting held on 29th August, 2017.

Council noted that due to the limited resources available, it is necessary to prioritise the sites for the first round of regional visits over 2017-2020.

Council approved the Committee's recommended policy for the minimum composition of an Assessor Team for all and any type of education and training accreditations or inspections. Council was advised that, for larger accreditation/inspection visits that require split teams, the composition will need to increase to ensure each team includes a Medical Assessor, Council Assessor and External Assessors. In relation to accreditation of Specialist Medical Education and Training Programmes, it was noted that at least one member of the Assessor Team should have expertise in the relevant specialty. Where possible, a trainee representative should also be on the team.

Council approved the Committee's recommendation in relation to the procedures so that applicants for accreditation of undergraduate or postgraduate medical education and training programmes will have an opportunity to request an internal review of the process leading to a recommendation by the ETPDC to approve or not to approve the programme or the body.

Council approved the Committee's recommendation to approve the recommendations made in the Report of Plymouth University Group regarding enhancement of the specialty recognition process, subject to public consultation. On the Committee's recommendation, Council also agreed to defer making a decision regarding credentialing until such time as the Committee has given the matter further consideration at its next scheduled meeting.

Council was advised that the Committee had noted responses from training bodies addressing the recommendations made to various postgraduate training programmes.

Council was advised that results of the NUI Galway DREEM Survey for assessing the educational climate in medical schools will be considered by an Assessor Team at the Council's accreditation visit to NUI Galway in early October.

Council was informed that the Medical Intern Board has been established. The Board is due to convene its inaugural meeting, chaired independently by Dr John Jenkins, on 10th October 2017.

Council was advised that the Executive had written to Linn Dara Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Inpatient Unit expressing concern at the closure of half the bed complement and the potential negative impact it might have on intern training at the site. Council noted the Unit's response advising that they are committed to ensuring the ongoing provision of high quality training for interns at the site and it is anticipated that the Unit will return to full operational capacity in October 2017.

Council noted that the RCSI has been invited to the next Committee meeting to give a presentation on a proposed privately-funded Masters in Clinical Medicine, which would lead to the award of a "Certificate of Experience".

Council approved the report of the Education, Training and Professional Development Committee.

Ethics & Professionalism Committee (EPC)

The report of the Ethics & Professionalism Committee meeting held on 31st August, 2017.

Council noted that the Medical Council has been working collaboratively with the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI), via a joint working group, on producing joint guidance, the first of which is a Safe Prescribing and Dispensing of Controlled Drugs Guide. The Guide has been produced incorporating feedback from a consultation process that involved registered doctors and pharmacists and is reflective of the changes to controlled drug legislation. Council approved the Guide to Safe Prescribing and Dispensing of Controlled Drugs. Council further noted that, once the document is approved by the Council of the PSI, it is hoped that this document will be launched at the National Patient Safety Conference being held in Dublin Castle on 24th-25th October, 2017.

Council approved the amendment of the definition of a consultant in the Council's booklet for patients. It was further agreed that the amendment is subject to consultation with the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) and their advice on the final wording.

Council was advised that Dr James O'Rourke from the Intensive Care Society of Ireland had attended the Committee meeting to present Guidelines for non-heart beating organ donation in adults. He was accompanied by Dr Conrick-Martin, clinical lead in organ donation for the Mater Group, and Dr Gaffney, one of the Clinical Leads in Organ Donation representing the Dublin North-East Healthcare Group. Council noted that the Committee plans to work in conjunction with the above doctors on a vignette, capturing the doctor and patient/family member perspectives on this topic, as an educational tool and support for doctors.

Council noted that the Committee is currently working on learning tools to support the new Ethical Guide and Council will be kept apprised of this on-going project.

Council noted that the Committee has consulted with a number of relevant organisations on the Council's 2012 publication exploring doctors' relationships with industry. Suggested amendments are currently being further distilled and a revised document, in response to the detailed feedback received, will be presented and considered at the Committee's next meeting.

Council was informed that the Committee considered the issue of Telemedicine with a view to patient safety, as referred by the Monitoring Committee. The Committee noted that doctors who engage in Telemedicine are subject to the same guidelines as all other doctors and complaints must be managed in the same way.

Council noted that the definition of intimate examinations in the Guide was brought to the Committee and discussed, in light of a recommendation by the Fitness to Practice Committee. The Committee has decided to develop a vignette regarding breast examination as a supportive and learning tool for doctors.

Council approved the report of the Education, Training and Professional Development Committee.

Health Committee (HC)

The report of the Health Committee meeting held on 6th September, 2017.

Council noted the number of practitioners supported by the Health Committee.

Council noted the number of review sessions conducted by the various teams.

Council further noted the outcomes of the Committee's ongoing review sessions and the support being provided to each practitioner.

Council was advised that arising from the review session report in respect of one practitioner that an undertaking has been sought from that practitioner that they undertake not to engage in the practice of medicine until released from such undertaking by the Committee.

Council noted that the Committee had released one practitioner from their undertaking limiting the number of sessions he could practice medicine.

Council was further advised that three practitioners who were reviewed by members of the Committee were not released from their undertakings not to engage in the practice of medicine.

Council was informed that positive health reports were received and reviewed in respect of two practitioners and that review sessions are currently scheduled for both practitioners.

Council noted that three practitioners were offered the support of the Committee following referral. The Committee further wishes the Council to note that a review session has been held in respect of two of the practitioners and that a review session will be arranged for the third practitioner following confirmation that they wish to obtain the support of the Committee.

Council approved the report of the Health Committee.

Item 10- Monitoring Committee (MC)

The report of the Monitoring Committee meeting held on 31st August, 2017.

Council noted the breakdown of medical practitioners who have conditions attached to the retention of their name in the Register.

Council approved the Committee's recommendation that the conditions attached to one practitioner's registration be removed.

Council approved the removal of two of the conditions attached to one practitioner's registration

Council considered an application to remove one condition attached to one practitioner's registration. Council decided not to remove this condition attached to the practitioner's registration

Council noted that two practitioners had attended the meeting of the Monitoring Committee to discuss their plans regarding their compliance with the conditions attached to their registration.

Council noted that the High Court Order confirming conditions attached to one practitioner's registration has been received and Council was informed that the practitioner concerned had voluntarily withdrawn their name from the Register.

Council noted that the Professional Development Plan submitted by one practitioner and their nominated person had been accepted by the Committee and further reports will be considered with regard to the aims set out in the plan.

Council noted that correspondence and documentary evidence of compliance has been received from the practitioners currently practising within the jurisdiction.

Council approved the report of the Monitoring Committee.

Nominations & Development Committee (NDC)

The report of the Nominations & Development Committee meeting held on 5th September, 2017.

Council approved the Committee's recommendation to approve Dr Suzanne Donnelly and Dr Dara Byrne to the Strategy and Policy Sub-Committee.

Council approved the report of the Nominations & Development Committee.

Media Coverage Log covering period: July 2017 – September 2017

This Item was noted by Council.

Date and Time of next meeting

Council noted the next meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th October, 2017 at 12:30 hrs and Thursday 26th October, 2017 at 08:30 hrs.