

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT HEALTH DIRECTORATES

UK GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER – TRUST ASSURANCE AND SAFETY – THE REGULATION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

IMPLEMENTATION IN SCOTLAND

CROSS PROFESSIONAL FITNESS TO PRACTISE GROUP

Workstream: %Revalidation of Doctors - Implementation of Responsible Officers+

Aim of paper: To define the terms of reference of a Responsible Officer Network.

Introduction

1. Arising from the 2007 White Paper, [Trust, Assurance and Safety - the Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century](#), the English Department of Health published a consultation document on %Responsible Officers+ (http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_086443).
2. This document sets out the role and key responsibilities for Responsible Officers (ROs).
3. In NHSScotland (NHSS), Board Executive Medical Directors will be the ROs covering all the doctors working in the geographical area covered by their boards. Unlike in England, ROs in Scotland will not have a statutory responsibility for local clinical governance systems and processes, although most will have executive leadership responsibilities for clinical governance within their boards, even if in partnership with another Director.
4. Key functions of this Network will relate to advising on the implications of implementation and to share knowledge and good practice in relation to delivering the RO role within NHSS Boards following implementation. The Network will also be an important group which should feed issues and experience of implementing revalidation into the proposed Revalidation Delivery Board for Scotland (RDB). The chair of the Network will chair the RDB.
5. Governance of the RO Network will be via the RDB to the SGHD Cross-Professional Fitness to Practise (C-PFtP) Group. The RO Network will effectively be a workstream emanating from the C-PFtP Group.
6. ROs will have training and education needs that will need to be scoped once the final document on ROs is published by the Westminster Government. These could be partly met by setting up a RO network in NHSScotland with input from NHS Education for Scotland (NES).

Action Required

7. To support the establishment of the Responsible Officer Network;
8. To agree the proposed membership of the RO Network;
9. To agree the governance arrangements for the RO Network;
10. To ask the Network to finalise these draft terms of reference and submit the final version to the CPFtP Group for approval;

the Revalidation Delivery Board for Scotland (RDBS)
RO Network will be a sub-group of the RDBS;
RO Network will be the chair of the RDBS.

Terms of Reference

13. ROs will play a key role in implementing robust medical revalidation in their local systems. The primary function of this Network is to advise on implementation and ensure that ROs can share experience and learning in delivering this role for NHSS Boards.

14. The Network may identify areas where guidance is required to ensure that the component elements of professional regulation for doctors are delivered in a robust and consistent manner across NHSScotland Boards. The chair of the Network will raise any issues through the RDB to the Cross Professional Fitness to Practice (CPFtP) Group to determine how this should be taken forward.

15. It is possible that issues will be identified which will best be dealt with by one of the Special Health Boards such as NHS Education for Scotland or NHS Quality Improvement Scotland. Recommendations on these matters will be sent to the RDB for consideration.

16. This Network will report to the RDB via the Network chair who will also chair the RDB. The Network chair will provide a written update at least one week prior to each meeting of the RDB.

17. All guidance issued from the Network will be submitted in draft to the Scottish Revalidation Delivery Board for initial approval, and then to the Co-Chairs of the Cross-Professional Fitness to Practise Group for interim approval, and will remain in draft until sanctioned by the Co-Chairs of the Overarching Implementation Steering Group.

Proposed RO Network Membership

18. The Network will comprise the ROs from NHSScotland Boards and independent sector organisations within Scotland. It is suggested that the following organisations be invited to send observers to the Network:

- Observer from NHS Education Scotland (NES). NES has extensive experience in delivering training and education.
- Observer from NHS Quality Improvement Scotland (QIS). QIS has a key role in the external quality assurance of NHSS Boards clinical governance and risk management systems, including those that support fitness to practise of health professionals.

Resources

19. At this point in time it is not anticipated that there will be any costs associated with setting up this Network. It is anticipated that any necessary secretariat functions will be supported from within.

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