

Post Registration Standards Steering Group

Meeting held virtually at 12:00 on 2nd July 2021 via Go To Meeting platform

Meeting notes

Chair and presenters: David Foster (chair); Andrea Sutcliffe (NMC Chief Executive and Registrar); Geraldine Walters (Executive Director, Professional Practice, NMC); Anne Trotter (NMC).

Independent SME Chairs: Owen Barr (Chair, SPQ group); Gwendolen Bradshaw (Chair, Programme standards group); Deborah Edmonds (Chair, Occupational Health Nurse group); Barbara Morgan (Chair, School Nurse group).

Attendees: Jane Beach; Kerri Eeilertsen-Feeney; Gill Knight; Lisa Llewellyn; Crystal Oldman; Lola Oni; Charlotte McArdle; Gill Walton.

Apologies: Clare Cable; Jane Harris (Chair, Health Visiting group); Angela Parry.

Welcome and introductions

David Foster (DF) welcomed attendees to the meeting and thanked them and everyone behind the scenes for their ongoing efforts. He also thanked those who had left the group since its last meeting for their contribution and welcomed new members.

Andrea Sutcliffe (AS) echoed those sentiments and emphasised the need for the work and effort to continue in the remainder of the consultation period to encourage people to participate and respond to this important consultation.

The notes of the previous meetings in December 2020 that were circulated at that time were agreed.

DF then outlined the agenda for today's meeting and the objectives for the day.

Geraldine Walters (GeW) gave a brief update on consultation activities to date – a detailed narrative briefing had already been provided to attendees. Her update included details of the number of responses received as per week ending 25/06/2021 and details of focus group activities. **Anne Trotter (AT)** also provided an overview of the SCPHN Citizen Lab platform pilot which forms part of our ongoing engagement activity in this area and indicated that the SPQ pilot would start in one week.

DF commented how noticeable it was how differently things had been done in this project compared to previous consultation exercises, not only due to the pandemic but the greater use of technology to engage with stakeholders and interested parties.

Lola Oni (LO) asked about initiating and maintaining contact with hard to reach populations and minority ethnic groups during the consultation. **AT** commented that these groups will be reached in particular via focus groups and telephone interviews carried out by Pye Tait. **LO** asked if information regarding numbers contacted in this way would be made available, **AT** confirmed this information will be made available at the end of the project.

AT then presented our proposals for the structure of the post-consultation governance groups and how they would undertake their work. It was stressed that the model was tried and tested, having been used by the NMC in earlier standards development projects within the education change programme.

Jane Beach (JB) asked what would determine whether a particular topic would be discussed by a Consultation Assimilation Team (CAT group). **GeW** confirmed that all issues raised during consultation would be looked at in some way as some part of the assimilation process. **AT** noted that if there was consensus on a particular issue, there would be no need for it to be considered by a CAT group. It's the areas where there are different views on what the draft standards said and what respondents to the consultation think they should say that will be prime candidates for CAT group consideration.

Crystal Oldman (CO) asked how feedback regarding the need for specific standards for the various SPQs would be addressed. **GeW** said that this would all be dependent on what came back through the consultation. **CO** asked whether there was scope within the governance structure to consider and address those bigger questions such as whether there was a need for specific standards. **GeW** said that this would be difficult without specificity in the responses as to exactly what was missing and what any such specific standards should contain. **Deborah Edmonds (DE)** and **Barbara Morgan (BM)**, both stated that specific feedback was pivotal in this respect.

GeW stated that we would be looking for nominations for people to take part in the assimilation process and join the CAT groups. The general view was that there was a need to understand the post-registration assimilation process and then to nominate the right people to participate in the process going forward. **DF** reminded everyone that, as outlined, the PRSSG would continue to have a key role to play in the overall assimilation process.

DF then asked what attendees and the groups they are from would be doing to promote the consultation in the remaining month of the consultation period.

JB said that Unite/CPHVA had held 3 webinars so far, and would be holding 1 more, based on the feedback received from members so far, before drafting their final response.

Charlotte McArdle (CM) said that there are ongoing NIPEC consultation events, and that they were also encouraging organisations in Northern Ireland to produce their own responses.

CO said that the QNI were offering opportunities for the NMC to meet with their various network groups. They were also using their social media outlets to advertise and promote the consultation.

LO again commented that we need to ensure that marginalised groups are heard from as part of the consultation, and offered to provide the NMC with contact details for such groups if that would help. This offer was accepted.

Lisa Llewellyn (LL) said that there was a webinar in Wales with the NMC planned for next week, which would be used to encourage people to respond to the consultation.

Gill Walton (GiW) said that the RCM was continuing to engage and raise the profile of this issue with its members.

GB suggested that the Council of Deans for Health could be used to help promote a final push amongst educators.

GeW next outlined the indicative timeline and next steps for after the consultation closes on 02/08/2021. It was stressed that the timeline is at present considered to be achievable but there was flexibility if responses required further assimilation time.

CO asked what we regarded as our target number of respondents. **DF** and **GeW** both stressed that what was important was quality of responses rather than absolute numbers. However, based on previous consultation exercises, which had usually had approx. 1,000 responses, we would hope to get something similar.

DF informed members that the next formal meeting of this group was planned for November.

In her closing comments, **AS** thanked everyone again for their contributions and for doing so much to engage with the process and publicise the consultation.

There being no further business, **DF** formally closed the meeting.