

Council meeting 6 & 7 June 2006

PUBLIC BUSINESS

## Effective lay and pharmacy technician involvement in the work of the National Pharmacy Boards

### Purpose

To consider whatever mechanisms might be necessary to ensure effective lay and pharmacy technician involvement in the work of each Board.

### Strategic objective domain

- Influencing the development of the pharmacist to play a more inclusive part in healthcare, public health and social care
- An organisation that consistently performs as a regulator, professional representative leader and publisher

### Recommendations for Action

The Council is asked whether it wishes to approve or amend the statements at 2, 3 and 4 below as ensuring effective lay and pharmacy technician involvement in the work of each Board.

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Council agreed in February 2005 that, in view of the Council's expectation of effective lay and pharmacy technician involvement in the work of each Board, recommendations should be submitted for consideration at a future meeting on whatever mechanisms might be necessary to ensure such involvement.

#### 2. Scottish Pharmacy Board

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive has responded as follows:

"The Scottish Executive reconfirmed its commitment to involve pharmacy technicians and lay people in the work of the Scottish Pharmacy Board at its meeting on 19 April. The exclusion of pharmacy technicians in Scotland from the draft Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians Order had reinforced the need to engage with technician representatives, building on the Chairman's presentation at the Scottish Pharmacy Technicians Conference in December 2005.

"On 4 May the Vice-Chairman and Director met representatives of APTUK and explored its aims and organisation, identifying how it gathered and represented the views of pharmacy technicians in Scotland and ways in which the Scottish Executive/Pharmacy Board could establish and maintain constructive dialogue and joint working. The meeting was mutually beneficial and provided a sound platform for further development.

"In relation to involvement of lay people, the Executive noted that the lay member of Council resident in Scotland is an *ex-officio* member of the Scottish Executive and this arrangement would be continued for the Scottish Pharmacy Board. The Scottish Executive already has well-developed links with several patient representative groups in Scotland. The Contact Programme developed as part of its Communications Plan had identified other groups that it would be useful to involve and the Executive's Communications Working Group will develop proposals for establishing and sustaining effective relationships. It is anticipated that the Society's PPI Strategy will assist this work by clearly identifying areas of the Society's activities where public and patient involvement would be most beneficial and mechanisms for achieving effective engagement."

### **3. Welsh Pharmacy Board**

#### **3.1 The Welsh Executive has responded as follows:**

“The Welsh Executive will ensure appropriate involvement in the Welsh Pharmacy Board through a number of means. For pharmacy technicians involvement is through an elected position on the Board. For lay input the Lay Council member from Wales will sit formally in ex officio capacity but this input will be supported by other lay involvement through the implementation of the PPI strategy.”

### **4. English Pharmacy Board**

#### **4.1 The Council has decided that the English Pharmacy Board will include a lay member of Council resident in England as a full voting member. The following comments were made at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to discuss the English Pharmacy Board:**

Boards can be kept small but set up forums to consider specific issues.

Boards will not operate in isolation but will work with representative groups from all sectors and they can bring in external expertise and knowledge if they want.

#### **4.2 These comments were made at a time when those at the meeting expected that there would be a pharmacy technician member of the English Pharmacy Board. The Council subsequently decided against this. Privy Council advisers have recently submitted comments on the draft regulations for the Boards (see paper 06.06/C/57) and they questioned the fact that there would be no pharmacy technician member of the English Pharmacy Board:**

*“We are not clear why there is no provision to allow a pharmacy technician to be appointed for the English pharmacy board. The Welsh board will have one, and the Scottish board could have one amongst its three persons co-opted by the board, but as drafted it does not appear possible for the English board to have one, The section 60 Order will provide for the pharmacy technicians on the Society's voluntary register to be transferred to the statutory Register of Pharmacy Technicians but it appears they will have no representation on the English pharmacy board.”*

#### **4.3 The Society's reply to PC advisers pointed out that technicians were not members of the Society, and that the Boards would have no regulatory functions. Nonetheless, in the light of the above, the Council may wish to consider amending the comments of the 2<sup>nd</sup> English group meeting above to include specific reference to pharmacy technicians. The Council may also wish to amend these comments to include the expectation that the Society's strategy for Patient and Public Involvement (PPI), once developed, would inform the work of the English Pharmacy Board.**

### **3. Risk Implications**

#### **3.1 Much of the risk associated with devolution comes from failing to meet the constitutional challenges presented by it. These were identified in the Devolution Review Group's report.**

#### **3.2 Failure to ensure effective lay and pharmacy technician involvement on the Boards could result in a lack of credibility with stakeholders. The Boards would also run the risk of producing policies that face problems in implementation as they might not be workable or appropriate from the perspective of patients, the public, or pharmacy technicians.**

#### **3.3 The Society needs to ensure that it is in the best possible position to influence the development of professional practice and health policy in the three countries of Great**

Britain. The Boards' ability to influence the development of pharmacy practice in general could be impaired if they were not kept abreast of developments in pharmacy technician practice.

#### **4. Resource Implications**

- 4.1 The suggestions in this paper contain no new resource implications that have not been included in previous papers to Council about the establishment of the Boards and about the involvement of patients and the public in the Society's work more generally. The costs of lay and pharmacy technician involvement in the work of the Boards would be expected to be contained within operational budgets relevant to the Boards' activities.
- 4.2 Some £140,000 has been included in the 2006 budget against direct costs associated with implementation of the Review Group's recommendations (2005, £125,000).
- 4.3 The national meetings all felt that the remit and membership of all RPSGB committees would need to be reviewed in the light of the establishment of the national Pharmacy Boards. Until this is done, it is not clear what additional cost the English Pharmacy Board -- which will have 15 members, together with the President and Vice-President of Council as *ex-officio* attendees -- will incur over and above that incurred by the current structures.
- 4.4 The Scottish Executive currently has 18 members, together with, *ex officio*, the President, Vice-President and other members of the Council who live in Scotland. The Scottish Pharmacy Board as currently agreed will have a membership of 12, with the ability to co-opt up to 3 others. The President and Vice-President of Council, with the pharmacist elected in the Scottish national constituency and a lay member of Council resident in Scotland, will be included *ex officio*.
- 4.5 The Welsh Executive currently has 12 members, together with the President, Vice-President and other members of the Council resident in Wales *ex officio*. The Welsh Pharmacy Board as currently agreed will have a membership of 12, with the ability to co-opt up to 3 others. The President or Vice-President of the Council, the pharmacist elected in the Welsh national constituency and a lay member of Council resident in Wales would be included *ex officio*.
- 4.6 It is anticipated that the Welsh and Scottish Boards will meet with much the same frequency as do the Executives now. It is therefore envisaged that, while the Welsh and Scottish Boards will probably need some additional dedicated staff resource based in Cardiff and Edinburgh to deliver a changed remit, the Welsh and Scottish Board structures themselves might be thought of as replacing the existing Executives, at little or no additional cost. The budgeted funding will provide for this recruitment and a secretariat function in London for the English Pharmacy Board. The full year cost (in 2007) is likely to be in the order of £170,000.

#### **5. Recommendations for Action**

The Council is asked whether it wishes to approve or amend the statements at 2, 3 and 4 above as ensuring effective lay and pharmacy technician involvement in the work of each Board.

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