

DH Steering Group: Stakeholder Chairs Meeting
2pm, 3 Nov 2006 at The King's Fund

MEETING MINUTES

Present:

Mercy Jeyasingham, ASG Chair
Michael McIntyre, EHPA Chair
Mike O'Farrell, CMWG Chair

Frances Dow, Steering Group Lay member
Pamela Jack, ASG
Amrit Ahluwalia, EHPA

Apologies:

Mike Pittilo, Steering Group Chair

1. AA welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided feedback on progress made by Mike Pittilo including advising the Chairs of recent correspondence to:

1. Margaret Coats, General Chiropractic Council
2. Madeleine Craggs, General Osteopathic Council
3. Marc Seale, Health Professions Council
4. Findlay Scott, General Medical Council
5. Ann Lewis, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
6. Sarah Thewlis, Nursing & Midwifery Council

Initial feedback from the HPC indicates that they would make every effort to accommodate acupuncture, herbal medicine and traditional Chinese medicine and meet the deadline posed by the reform of medicines legislation as best they could. AA also mentioned that there are time pressures to meet this deadline that the Steering Group will be unable to influence, including the need for the DH to secure solicitors to draft the legislation as well as Parliamentary time.

2. MJ was keen that the best time was made of the Chairs meetings, including determining how best to address the issues raised at the Steering Group and how the work of the Stakeholder Groups can be co-ordinated.

Following some discussion about Paper 3, it was decided to try to determine which parts of the list required by the DH were profession specific and need to be addressed solely by individual stakeholder groups and what issues were generic to everyone. Generic issues should be considered by the Groups together rather than individual Groups working independently on these issues, coming up with different ideas and then having to put them altogether at the end for the final report.

The ASG has set up sub-groups to look at specific issues. If ASG members were willing, it was agreed that each sub-group would invite members of the two other stakeholder groups to join the debate from the outset. **Action: MJ to take to ASG**

There was confusion about exactly what was required of every item and the following may require additional DH guidance:

- Scope of practice statements
- Number of titles

If these professions go to the HPC, are all HPC documents and policies automatically adopted? What do these professions need to bring to the table? It was agreed that it would, in the first instance, be best to map what policies etc these professions already have against

current HPC guidelines, and then to decide what it is they want. **Action: AA to get DH guidance on issues above**

3. MM raised concerns from correspondence circulated (W Churchill, N Lampert) about the need for other professionals as well as the public to understand there are different styles of acupuncture that need to be distinguished from each other. MJ felt that this distinction should be done by the profession rather than the regulator. The role of the regulator is public protection and this is achieved through meeting minimum levels of training and education. Strong codes of practice, etc will ensure practitioners are behaving appropriately and within their scope of practice. MJ felt the role of promoting the profession and ensuring the diversity of practice was maintained was down to the professional bodies, and was not the role of the regulator.

Given the need to get clarity styles of acupuncture, MJ agreed to raise this with the ASG for further discussion. The ASG will determine the number of titles appropriate for the profession and this will be recommended to the Steering Group. A range of titles for a single profession may not be in the patients' interests and a regulator may have a view about what is appropriate to ensure public safety. Herbal/traditional medicine, however, would be seeking to secure a range of protected titles. **Action: MJ to raise with ASG**

4. Reminder from AA – ensure other stakeholders groups are invited to send representatives to your group meetings and that you try to get one of the lay members to participate.
5. Next Meeting: 2-5pm, 19 January 2007 at the King's Fund.