General Dental Council

Council Member Role Description and Personal Specification

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Council members collectively are responsible for:

1. Setting the strategic direction of the GDC within its statutory framework
   - Taking responsibility for corporate strategy, business plans and budgets and the development of the framework for reviewing policy and operational performance;
   - Ensuring that the GDC focuses on its statutory duties of patient safety and public confidence in dental services;
   - Evaluating the effectiveness of the Council in fulfilling its statutory purpose;
   - Overseeing the development of policy and taking major policy decisions.

2. Ensuring that the public and stakeholders have confidence in the GDC in conjunction with the Accounting Officer
   - Ensuring that the GDC has measures in place to engage with stakeholders and with other relevant organisations and government agencies in the four countries of the UK;
   - When appropriate, acting personally to support and promote the interests of the GDC.

3. Providing challenge and scrutiny of the GDC’s operations, ensuring that they are aligned with the organisation’s strategic direction
   - Holding the executive to account for the management of day to day operations;
   - Holding the executive to account for ensuring that the GDC’s operations are organised in ways which facilitate the delivery of core functions to best effect, and that this is kept under review as circumstances change.

4. Setting a positive tone, behaviour and culture for the organisation
   - Ensuring that the Council models the principles of public life and the GDC’s leadership behaviours;
   - Providing constructive and effective challenge.

Council members must be committed to patient protection and public confidence in dental services, which is the primary statutory purpose of the GDC. They must have the confidence to speak out and challenge, working effectively with fellow members, the executive and stakeholders.
Essential Criteria

Council members must be able to demonstrate:

1. A proven understanding and experience of supporting confidence in public services and a commitment to patient protection;
2. Experience of contributing to an organisation operating in a political/legislative environment;
3. The ability to work effectively with the executive to challenge, support and hold the executive to account for the delivery of the corporate strategy;
4. The capacity to understand the organisational and business issues facing the GDC, and the skills required to analyse, interrogate and scrutinise performance data;
5. The ability to contribute constructively to collective decision-making processes, respecting and listening to others and earning the respect of colleagues; and
6. A personal commitment to good governance, and of upholding the recognised principles of public life, and a commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.

Desirable Criteria

1. Non-executive director experience and/or experience of chairing a committee;
2. Knowledge of regulation;
3. Applicants who wish to be considered for the vacancy for the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee should have Board/senior level financial expertise, an understanding of the exercise of good risk management and ideally experience of the work of an Audit and Risk Committee;
4. Applicants who wish to be considered for the vacancy for the Chair of the Finance and Performance Committee should have experience of having managed or operated at a senior level in a commercially focussed organisation;
5. For one of the registrant vacancies – registration as a Dental Care Practitioner.