

**Report to the Council from the Statutory Panellist Assurance Committee (SPC) meeting on 7 February 2017**

<b>Purpose of paper</b>	To report on the key items considered by the Statutory Panellist Assurance Committee at its meeting on 7 February 2017.
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Action</b>	For noting.
<b>Corporate Strategy 2016-19</b>	<u>Objective 1</u> : To improve our performance across all our functions so that we are highly effective as a regulator.
<b>Business Plan 2017</b>	<i>2017 Priority one: Continue to build a cost effective and efficient organisation</i>
<b>Decision Trail</b>	In accordance with the General Dental Council Standing Orders for the SPC 2015, the SPC will report to the next Council meeting following its meeting.
<b>Next stage</b>	N/A.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council is asked to note the report of the Statutory Panellist Assurance Committee meeting on 7 February 2017.</li> </ul>
<b>Authorship of paper and further information</b>	Pauline Kemp, Governance Manager <a href="mailto:pkemp@gdc-uk.org">pkemp@gdc-uk.org</a> 020 7167 6204
<b>Appendices</b>	None.

## **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1. The purpose of the SPC is to assist the Council in connection with the exercise of any function relating to the appointment of statutory committee members, including the selection, appraisal and performance of statutory committee members.
- 1.2. In accordance with the GDC's Standing Orders for the Statutory Panellist Assurance Committee 2015, the SPC is required to report to the Council meeting following each meeting. This paper reports on the key items considered by the Committee at its meeting on 7 February 2017.

## **2. Items discussed at the SPC meeting on 7 February 2017**

### **2.1. Chair's Introduction**

The SPC Chair summarised her attendance at the recent PSA Conference which was run for FtP Chairs across the Regulators. This was considered an excellent event and covered topics ranging from the treatment of dishonesty, domestic violence and to the public's different expectations of personal behaviours between dental and health worker professionals. It was also noted Regulators varied in their approach to consensual disposals and voluntary removal orders.

### **2.2. Chief Executive's Report**

The Committee were advised the CEO had spoken with the Chief Executive of the PSA regarding domestic violence cases and Mr Cayton had agreed to review one particular case of concern.

*Shifting the balance* had been launched and the Committee was informed of the changes being taken forward within the GDC Directorates with enhanced cross departmental working.

The Committee were advised a formal consultation would soon be starting concerning the registration fee policy and Board recruitment was underway.

The Committee were informed the Council had written to the Department of Health with a proposed list of Section 60s the GDC wished to take forward.

The Committee confirmed their interest in contributing to the programme of reform and this would be discussed at a later date.

## **3. Recruitment & Induction**

### **3.1. Appointment of Future Panel Chairs**

At the SPC Meeting of 7 December 2016, the Committee had agreed to consider the appointment of Panel Chairs following the Chair selection day of 9 December 2016. The Committee considered and agreed to the appointment of 3 Chairs, which was ratified at the 7 February 2017 SPC meeting

The Committee also discussed the recruitment and development of Chairs and, in order to increase the number of Chairs, to consider a process of direct appointment in addition to the current system of appointment from within the pool. The Committee also discussed Legally Qualified Chairs and the CEO confirmed this would be on the proposed Section 60 list and the pros and cons of direct recruitment was discussed.

The Committee also discussed payment to Chairs and Panel Members by the GDC and it was noted consideration to rebalance fees was a future agenda item for EMT.

## **4. Learning & Development**

### **4.1. Fitness to Practise Panels & Investigating Committees – Update on Development Review Process**

The Committee received an update on the delivery of the points approved at the June 2016 SPC meeting and further approved actions for 2017. The Committee received assurance that the process of Chairs appraising Panel members was robust. The Committee would be considering a paper which would be brought to the May SPC outlining the proposals to develop the review criteria for current and future Panellists.

## **5. Statutory Committee Members and Associates**

### **5.1. FTP Improvement Programme including Projections for PSA Standards**

The Committee received an update on the Standards yet to be attained, as follows:

#### **>Standard 4 Risk Assessment**

The Committee noted the work being undertaken to reduce the time taken to progress a case to IO hearing from approximately 28 weeks to closer to 4 weeks (currently 18 days – quarter 1 2017) .

#### **>Standard 8 Decision Making**

The Committee noted the disappointment in not achieving this standard. Improvements were being implemented to improve the internal QAG process and a Decision Assurance Group was being implemented – a process implemented successfully by another Regulator who had achieved their Standard in the past year.

#### **>Standard 10 Information Security / Data Breaches**

The Committee noted a SIRO would need to be appointed and consideration was being given to the attaining ISO 27001 as a way forward to attaining this Standard.

### **5.2. Investigating Committee Feedback**

The Committee received 3 months of positive reports with no issues.

### **5.3. Declarations of Interests for SCMs and FtP Associates**

The Committee noted the Managing Interests Policy for Associates and approved the Register of Interests for FtP Panel Members and noted the annual review cycle.

### **5.4. Appointment of Investigating Committee Chairs**

The Committee noted three candidates were applying for the posts of IC Chairs and a recommendation would be brought to the next SPC meeting.

## **6. Quality Assurance**

### **6.1. Quality Assurance of Legal Advisers (incorporating Statutory Committee Members)**

The Committee considered and approved the Quality Assurance process and associated reporting mechanisms for 60 Legal Advisers. This addressed compulsory attendance at annual training sessions, 360-degree feedback, serious concerns escalated and independent assessment, with the focus on e-learning. A similar process would be implemented for Legal Assessors. A paper relating to an Integrated Assurance Approach would be brought back to the May SPC.

## **7. Risk**

### **7.1. Strategic Risk Register**

The Committee had considered the Strategic Risk Register and there were no matters of concern or new items of risk identified.