

Health Education England - *Advancing Dental Care Review*

Purpose of paper	To update Council on the Health Education England's "Advancing Dental Care: Education and Training Review", and its implications.
Status	Public session
Action	For decision
Corporate Strategy 2016-19	Professionals Objective 2: To help ensure that dental professionals are properly trained in the skills necessary to practise dentistry safely from the outset.
Business Plan 2018	N/A
Decision Trail	None.
Next stage	Based upon the intelligence available post workstream workshops, Executive can see some advantage to further amplification of the messages we have already sent, for example through escalation to CEO-CEO or Chair-Chair correspondence.
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council is asked to note this paper and to approve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Next Steps described in section 11.
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1. Executive summary

- 1.1. This paper sets out information available about the Health Education England (HEE) **Advancing Dental Care: Education and Training Review** which is active in the first quarter of 2018.
- 1.2. We have already written to HEE to remind them that the GDC has specific powers and responsibilities laid upon it by Parliament and that there may be crossover from HEE project outcomes to these responsibilities. We have also indicated our belief that significant developments in dental education and training should look for consensus across the four nations of the UK.
- 1.3. Based upon the intelligence available post workstream workshops, we can see some advantage to further amplification of the messages we have already sent, for example through escalation to CEO-CEO or Chair-Chair correspondence.

2. Introduction and background

- 2.1. HEE launched its **Advancing Dental Care: Education and Training Review** at the end of September 2017 with a stakeholder event in Liverpool. The review's stated remit is to review the roles, composition and training needs of the whole dental workforce (i.e. all dental registrants), and to propose changes where necessary.
- 2.2. The project is intended to look at how to better meet future patient needs; provide greater workforce flexibility both for the NHS service and for individual registrants; improve job satisfaction and clarity of role for dental professionals whilst also ensuring value for money.
- 2.3. HEE has sought to develop recommendations for potential reforms through a broad range of stakeholders and recognises that any changes proposed are likely to be complex, with implementation therefore primarily subject to medium-to-long-term plans.
- 2.4. The following Project Workstreams have been identified:

1. Dental Training Pathways
2. Post Foundation Training and Development
3. Building on the Scope of Practice – the future dental team
4. The Economic Model for Training
5. Short Term Adjustments to Dental Education and Training

- 2.5. Working Groups have been put together to address these workstreams. Their outputs will feed into the overarching project, leading to a further stakeholder event in February 2018
- 2.6. A final report with evidence-based recommendations will be presented to HEE's Executive Team, also taking consideration of the strategic priorities of the Department of Health and NHS England.

3. The HEE timeline

- 3.1. The deadlines that HEE has set for itself are ambitious. Workstream activity is intended to be complete by the end of February with outputs/recommendations going forward to HEE's Executive Team by the end of March 2018.

4. GDC perspectives

- 4.1. The GDC is a four-nation health regulator and has specific powers and responsibilities laid upon it by Parliament. We have written to the COPDEND chair, Nicholas Taylor, who is leading the review to remind HEE that:

- the Council of the GDC will make its own decisions on matters that are reserved to the Council;
- solutions or innovations emerging from the review that do not come with a four nation consensus may experience difficulty in achieving the Council's support.

- 4.2. In reply, the COPDEND chair acknowledged these points but it may be useful for the Council to consider further correspondence to HEE concerning the Council's independence. This might take the form of inter-Chair or inter-Chief Executive correspondence.
- 4.3. Nevertheless, whilst being mindful of maintaining the Council's independence, we must be open to aspects of policy being considered under the review that may parallel or support our own policy aims – the opportunity of further progress on skills mix in the dental team may be the clearest example.
- 4.4. The Council will wish to maintain appropriate focus upon issues of patient protection and to take a responsible approach to developments in dental education and training across the four nations of the UK that may increase our quality assurance activities beyond what we consider proportionate.

5. Risks and considerations

<p>Communications</p> <p>We will need a communications strategy to manage our contribution to national and public debate.</p>
<p>Equality and Diversity</p> <p>An equality impact assessment is not required at this stage of discussions.</p>
<p>Legal</p> <p>HEE's review has the potential to impact the GDC's role in quality assuring education and training programmes leading to registration. It also has the potential to impact other statutory areas such as our duty to provide standards guidance to the dental team. The remit of the GDC in undertaking its statutory functions is outlined in the Dentists Act 1984.</p> <p>HEE's proposals should be carefully considered for any potential for legislative development.</p>
<p>Policy</p> <p>We need to test HEE proposals as they emerge against existing policy positions.</p>
<p>Resources</p> <p>There is the potential for resource implications for the GDC arising from the HEE initiative; it may be too early to quantify these at this time.</p>
<p>National</p> <p>The HEE review is England-based but we consider there is a need for consensus in approaches to dental training and education in the four nations of the UK.</p>

6. Next steps

- 6.1. The Council's consideration of this paper occurs before the conclusion of the workstreams' activity and before submission of reports to the HEE Executive.
- 6.2. Based upon the information available as the review progresses, the Council may decide to commission further correspondence to HEE at Chair and/or Chief Executive level to address:
- a) Matters reserved to the Council and potential HEE reliance upon GDC agreement to proposals;

- b) Four-nation issues;
- c) Stakeholder reactions;
- d) Recognition of areas of joint interest.

6.3. Updates will be given to the Council meetings in March and May; any significant developments will be reported to the Council outside these meetings.

7. **Recommendation**

7.1. The Council is asked to note this paper and to approve next steps at section 6.