

Report to the Council from the Policy and Research Board meeting on 14 February 2019

Purpose of paper	To report on the key items considered by the Policy and Research Board at its meeting on 14 February 2019.
Action	For noting .
Corporate Strategy 2016-19	Performance objective 1: To improve our performance across all our functions so that we are highly effective as a regulator.
Business Plan 2017	Priority one: Continue to build a cost effective and efficient organisation.
Decision Trail	In accordance with the General Dental Council Standing Orders for the Non-statutory Committees of Council the Policy and Research Board will report to the next Council meeting following its meeting.
Recommendations	The Council is asked to note the report.
Authorship of paper and further information	Rachel Knight, Head of Governance rknight@gdc-uk.org
Appendices	None

1. Executive summary

- 1.1. This paper reports on key issues considered by the Policy and Research Board (the Board) at its meeting on 14 February 2019.

2. Introduction and background

- 2.1. The key purpose of the Board as defined in its terms of reference is:

“to provide oversight of the development and implementation of strategy, policy and research initiatives and report on them to the Council. In so doing, the Policy and Research Board will work with the Executive to ensure that strategy and policy making is coordinated across the GDC, liaising with other committees as appropriate”.

- 2.2. In accordance with the General Dental Council Standing Orders for the Non-Statutory Committees of Council 2018, the Board is required to report to the Council meeting following each meeting. The Board met on 14 February 2019.

3. Workshops

- 3.1 The Board received two workshops at the meeting. The meeting opened with a presentation from NHS England about SNOMED CT (Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine Clinical Terms) which is the single terminology of choice for health and care in England being implemented by 1 April 2020. The briefing included the assurance and governance framework of the nomenclature which was owned by the Chief Dental Officer. The Office of Chief Dental Officer are planning for all NHS dental practices in England to be using this system by April 2020.
- 3.2 The second workshop was an extended discussion about the role of research and intelligence team and ideas for the development of a research and intelligence strategy. The Board were asked to input into current thinking by exploring two questions:
- 3.2.1 What our must know research questions are; what we need to know that we don't know now and who do we need to work with to answer the questions; and
- 3.2.2 What do we mean by 'demonstrating intelligence value'?
- 3.3 In response to the questions the Board suggested that understanding the impact of the StB programme and what worked well or less well in key areas such as FtP or the Upstream Programme would be beneficial. The challenge was to incorporate the learning in everything we did and to build partnership and dialogue into GDC operations.

4 *Shifting the balance* programme update

- 4.1 The Board received a programme update. In discussion there was feedback about the new webpage with material for new registrants which had recently been implemented, particularly the need for close co-ordination between the textual material and the website to reflect the fact that both were ongoing projects. The Student Engagement Action Plan was discussed in detail, and the Board noted that the formation of a student liaison group was being considered for next year which had the potential to develop students into future ambassadors for the GDC.

5 Audience Engagement Strategy

- 5.1 The Board received two externally commissioned research reports into stakeholder perceptions and communications between the GDC and stakeholders alongside a presentation which detailed the work that was already underway and what was proposed between now and autumn.
- 5.2 The Board discussed the value of using different communication channels for different target audiences and noted the potential to develop an app in the future.

6 LDC Engagement Plan

- 6.1 The Board were asked to provide feedback on plans to improve the quality and frequency of engagement with Local Dental Committees (LDCs). The Board were presented with a detailed analysis of the LDC network and plans to improve the way the GDC communicates and engages with this audience. The engagement plan centred on delivering highly-focused content that could be shared to help utilise this large network and to increase the level and quality of face-to-face engagement.

- 6.2 The Board noted that the age profile of working dentists was younger than the overall UK population, but that this was not necessarily reflected in LDC membership. Although there was a need to encourage younger practitioners to participate in the formal structures to influence the future of the profession the focus had to be the communication of GDC to as many people as possible. As had already been noted in relation to other agenda items, there was a need to improve communication, including using different communication channels.

7 Annual Review of Education

- 7.1 The Board received a brief outline of the reasons to change the format and style of the next Annual Review of Education report. Overall the Board agreed that the final report needed to be more accessible for people to read and were assured that the intention was to significantly reduce the normal 100-page version and to give it a broader appeal. Questions were raised about why the audience was limited to education providers and whether it would also be published and distributed to commissioners for QA programmes. The view was that it should become a central resource for all those with an interest in dental education.

8 Future Direction of CPD - update

- 8.1 The Board received the draft discussion document to which stakeholders would be asked to respond. Some members felt that the document contained too many questions and that the content and length of the document was overwhelming. The sections on peer learning and reflective practice were highlighted as areas which would benefit from a more focused approach.
- 8.2 The Board questioned whether the document indicated that the GDC was moving towards a model of revalidation. It was noted that the meaning of the term 'revalidation' was flexible and depended on the type of health profession – the GMC, NMC and GPhC all had versions of revalidation. The Board felt that clarification in the dental context would be welcomed.
- 8.3 It was expected that Council would be asked to approve the consultation document at the May meeting. The consultation outcome report was expected by the end of the year.

9 Follow up to ways of working workshop

- 9.1 Following a workshop at the Board meeting in November it was agreed that PRB would continue to oversee the development of strategy by receiving informal reports designed to test proposals at an early stage in the thinking. To do this the Board will also continue to provide space for discussion with external stakeholders and to be the focus of Council interface with the public to design and test policy in specified areas. This approach will be applied apply to the developing CPD proposals

10 Horizon scanning report

- 10.1 The Board received the horizon scanning report which had been received by Council at their January meeting.

11 The next meeting

- 11.1 The next meeting will be on 10 April 2019, in Birmingham. It is anticipated that there will be a workshop which will consider the GDC relationship with corporate dental service providers.

12 Recommendations

12.1 The Council is asked to **note** the items discussed by the Board on 14 February 2019.