

English Pharmacy Board 2 July 2008

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Transitional Committee

Purpose

To consider who should represent the English Pharmacy Board on the Transitional Committee.

Strategic objective domains

- An organisation that consistently performs as a regulator, professional representative leader and publisher

Action required

The English Pharmacy Board is asked to:

- i. agree a representative of the Board to become a member of the Transitional Committee;
- ii. agree a deputy to attend Transitional Committee if the representative cannot attend.

1. Background

The establishment of a Transitional Committee was a specific recommendation of the Clarke Report which will guide the RPSGB Council through the process of establishing a new professional body for pharmacy. At the meeting on 21 May 2008 Council considered the terms of reference for the Transitional Committee and agreed that Nigel Clarke, who previously chaired the Clarke Inquiry, be appointed as Chairman of the Transitional Committee (Transcom).

2. Terms of Reference

Council have made a number of recommendations concerning the role of Transcom, most importantly, it should provide advice on effective action to ensure that the new professional body is fit for purpose and is financially viable. It should also ensure that work proceeds in partnership with the Society and identified organisations, and that other stakeholders are engaged and kept informed of progress. Furthermore, it should ensure that Council members and equivalents in stakeholder organisations may properly discharge their fiduciary duty.

In particular, in advising and reporting to Council and stakeholders, Transcom will:

- Produce a prospectus for a new professional body by the end of 2008 so that potential members can make an informed choice about membership
- Identify and put forward proposals to address the financial, legal and employment issues supporting the transfer of functions, staff and other resources into the new professional body
- Take into account decisions relating to the regulation of pharmacy in Great Britain and of regulation and professional leadership of pharmacy in Northern Ireland
- Produce proposals to engage with the full spectrum of members and potential members of the professional body, with a specific emphasis on meeting the everyday needs of pharmacists

- Make recommendations to Council regarding the incorporation of the new body which may include changes to the Royal Charter
- Oversee the arrangements to establish a shadow Council for the new professional body

The Transitional Committee can only be an advisory committee as RPSGB Council are unable to delegate their responsibilities to the Society and have a collective fiduciary responsibility. Council would need to make decisions about the future of the Society but may be advised by the Transitional Committee.

3. Composition

At its meeting on 3 & 4 June 2008 RPSGB Council agreed the following composition of Society representatives on Transcom:

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- 3x Board nominees (one representative from England, Scotland & Wales)
- Council member who is branch sponsor

4. Frequency of meetings

Transcom will meet monthly, from July-December 2008, with some input (virtual meetings, emails etc) required in between.

5. English Pharmacy Board Response to Clarke Inquiry

The Board held a special meeting on 26 March 2008 to agree their response to the Clarke Inquiry that was included with the Society's overall submission. Attached at Appendix 1 are the Board's views to the recommendations of the Clarke Inquiry which the Board representative can use to assist them on Transcom. Unless otherwise specified members agreed with the recommendations put forward by Clarke and considered that many of the issues raised by the Board had been incorporated into the final report.

6. EPB members

The following EPB members have expressed an interest in representing the Board on Transcom:

- Richard Daniszewski
- David Miller
- Lindsey Gilpin
- Brian Curwain
- Jonathan Buisson

7. Issues for discussion

Board members have raised the following issues for discussion before a representative of the Board is elected:

- The workload of EPB will grow significantly for the remainder of 2008/09 due to the recommendations of Pharmacy in England; Pharmacy 2020 and increased communications activities. Therefore the work of the Board needs to be spread evenly amongst all Board members.
- Does it matter if the EPB representative is also a member of Council?

- If nominees hold a position in another pharmacy organisation, in what circumstances could this represent a conflict of interest?
- The three RPSGB Council representatives come from the community pharmacy sector. If the Board's nominee came from a different sector, could this be an advantage?
- How will the Board's Transcom representative feed back to the Board?

In answer to some of the questions listed above Board members emails have indicated that some members would prefer the representative not to be a Council member as Council is already represented on Transcom.

8. Voting Procedure

If Board members decide to go ahead with a vote to decide who will become the Transcom representative it is recommended that this follows the same process as for election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman:

- i. If one candidate receives the majority of the total votes cast that person will be deemed to have been elected.
- ii. In the event that no candidate receives a majority of all votes cast in the first ballot, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes in that ballot will be eliminated and the process repeated.

9. Risk Implications

The recommendations and outputs from Transcom will influence RPSGB's Council decisions about the way forward in the run up to the de-merger of the Society. The EPB representative will need to articulate the views of the Board in an effective way, as well as being able to listen and report back to the Board.

10. Resource Implications

All expenses for the Board member and deputy attending Transcom will be met through the Society's Transcom budget.

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David Pruce
Director Practice & Quality Improvement