

English Pharmacy Board 29 October 2008

PUBLIC BUSINESS

National Pharmacy Boards as the Professional Voice of the Society

Purpose

To consider how the professional voice of the Society can be strengthened.

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. discuss and consider the issues raised in the paper;
- ii. consider how the English Pharmacy Board will work with Council;
- iii. consider how the three National Pharmacy Boards can work together;
- iv. consider how Board members, both individually as collectively, can inform the professional voice; and
- v. identify key issues for members that will be addressed through articles in the pharmacy press.

1. Background

At the Council & National Pharmacy Boards Liaison Group held on 24 September 2008 the professional voice of the Society was discussed and how this professional voice could be emphasised going forward into the de-merger. Legislation such as the Responsible Pharmacists with the ensuing supervision debate would require an interface between the GPhC and the professional body.

2. Role of Council

There needs to be a way forward that would balance the professional with the regulatory in the short term and an agreement on how the National Pharmacy Boards could be involved in achieving this aim. Council is the decision making body for the Society but with Council members time severely pressurised it will fall to the Boards to progress this in a timely fashion.

3. Branding of the National Pharmacy Boards

The National Pharmacy Boards should be marketed as a strong component of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's brand, and ultimately, in the new professional body. The Boards need to understand how this will change in the next fifteen months and be prepared to adapt.

4. Key issues

The Council and National Pharmacy Boards Liaison Group requested that key issues of concern for the membership should be identified and then given to the Boards to take forward as part of professional development. This could be achieved through a series of articles in the pharmacy press, an example of that is a monthly article in the C+D on professional leadership issues.

5. **Scottish Board Response**

The Scottish Board discussed this at its meeting on 1st October 2008 and asked that a model for effective joint working between the Boards be developed that would allow Council to devolve responsibility for professional issues to the Boards whilst retaining overall control. This was largely about confidence building, so the model would need to be developed but also the Boards would need to demonstrate that it could work consistently. This was critical to the successful development of the new professional body within the Society and to the transition from old organisation to new.

Action required

The English Pharmacy Board is asked to:

- i. discuss and consider the issues raised in the paper;
- ii. consider how the English Pharmacy Board will work with Council;
- iii. consider how the three National Pharmacy Boards can work together;
- iv. consider how Board members, both individually as collectively, can inform the professional voice; and
- v. identify key issues for members that will be addressed through articles in the pharmacy press.

Howard Duff
Director for England