

For information

UK Healthcare Education Advisory Committee Annual report

Agenda: 23
HEFCW/16/51

Disclosable

12/05/2016

1 Issue

- 1.1 This paper provides the 2015 annual report of the UK Healthcare Education Advisory Committee (UKHEAC) as reported to the HEFCE Board, together with additional information about the context in Wales.

2 Corporate Planning Implications / Rationale for paper

- 2.1 HEFCW provides some funding support for medical, dental and other healthcare provision. UKHEAC has responsibility for advising the UK funding bodies on healthcare education matters. HEFCW nominates members to the Committee and has officer observer representation to ensure a continued input to UK-wide perspectives on these areas including on work-force planning.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Council is invited to:
- i. note the annual report of UKHEAC for 2015;
 - ii. note the additional information on Wales;

4 Timing for decisions

- 4.1 There are no timing implications for this paper.

5 Council members' interests

- 5.1 Council member Professor Stephen Tomlinson was a member of UKHEAC in 2015. Dr Arun Midha has replaced him as Member from April 2016.

6 Further information

- 6.1 Contact Dr Cliona O'Neill (029 2068 2283; cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk).

7 UKHEAC Annual report 2015

- 7.1 The annual report of the UKHEAC presented to HEFCE Board at its meeting in March 2016, is attached at **Annex A**. This includes information about the terms of reference and membership of the Committee and planned activity for 2016.
- 7.2 In 2015 the Council was represented on UKHEAC by Professor Steve Tomlinson, and the HE sector in Wales was represented by Professor Paul Morgan (former Dean of Medicine, Cardiff University) until May 2015. Professor Morgan was replaced by Professor Keith Lloyd, Dean and Head of the medical school at Swansea University, from 1 June 2015. The Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Wales is an observer to the Committee, together with a HEFCW officer.
- 7.3 The report largely covers the context in England. Some additional information related to Wales is summarised below.
- 7.4 *Health and Care Research Wales*: the National Institute for Social Care and Health Research (NISCHR) was rebranded as Health and Care Research Wales in May 2015. This provides centralised support functions and services for the health and social care research community in Wales. It has a dedicated function to facilitate an increase in commercial research in health and social care in Wales, particularly through strong industry engagement.
- 7.5 *Prudent healthcare*: The Bevan Commission proposed a set of [prudent healthcare principles](#), which were endorsed by the Minister for Health and Social Services in January 2015.
- 7.6 *Health Professional Education Investment Review*: In 2015 the outcomes of the Health Professional Education Investment Review, commissioned by Welsh Government in 2014, were published. The report had four principal recommendations:
- the need for a revised strategy for NHS Wales based on the Prudent Healthcare agenda;
 - the development of a workforce plan that is aligned with the strategy;
 - the creation of a single body to cover funding, commissioning and equity of education and training provision;
 - the development of NHS Wales as a learning organisation.
- This work is being taken forward by Professor Robin Williams from HEFCW's Council.
- 7.7 *Research Excellence Framework*: The outcomes of the 2014 REF were published in December 2014, and reported to UKHEAC in 2015. In the clinical Units of Assessment, Cardiff University and Swansea University both performed very strongly in Allied Health Professions (substantially above the UK average quality profile). Cardiff University also performed extremely strongly in Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience.
- 7.8 *Funding for healthcare provision*: In England, it was announced that there would be changes to the financial support for students of nursing and allied health professions, as part of the 2015 comprehensive spending review. The proposals included that this provision should move to the student loan system in England, rather than the current system where the NHS pays the fees and student bursaries. The proposals are currently subject to [consultation](#). Arrangements for nursing and allied health professionals are devolved in Wales, and there has been no announcement made in relation to future funding/loan arrangements. It is not yet clear how cross-border applications will be funded. If the system in Wales looks

more generous, it is possible that there will be an increase in applicants from elsewhere, who may not be retained in the Welsh workforce once they finish. If Welsh students who wish to study in England need to apply to Student Finance Wales for funding, this will impact on the tuition fee grant.

- 7.9 *Widening access:* Work was continuing on how the Selecting for Excellence agenda applied in Wales. HEFCW participated in discussions with Welsh Government and providers of medical education regarding how this might be taken forward. To support these discussions, HEFCW analysed data for this provision in Wales, which is available at **Annex B**.
- 7.10 *Pharmacy:* it is proposed that pharmacy courses in England and Wales shift from a four year Masters course with an additional pre-registration year, to a five year Masters course which integrates the pre-registration year. Wales is keen to move to this five year programme at the same time as England. It is not yet clear whether this will be achieved by 2017/18.

8 Financial implications

- 8.1 HEFCW contributes £900 a year towards the activities of UKHEAC.
- 8.2 In 2015/16 HEFCW provided ca £14.2m for medical and dental provision. We also provided ca £5.8m for part-time medicine and subjects allied to medicine.

9 Communications implications

- 9.1 The report has been published on the HEFCE website, which also includes the minutes of the Committee.

10 Diversity and Equal Opportunities implications

- 10.1 This paper has no direct implications for age, disability, marital/civil partnership, maternity/pregnancy, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, any other protected characteristic, Welsh Language or sustainability.

11 Risk Assessment

- 11.1 Details of identified risks arising from the issues are provided below:

Risk	Action to address risk
The Council lacks a capacity to engage with UK developments in medical, dental and other healthcare provision at UK level.	Engagement by HEFCW and Welsh sector in UKHEAC.