

**Report to the Council from the Policy and Research Board meeting
on 26 June 2019**

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| Purpose of paper | To report on the key items considered by the Policy and Research Board at its meeting on 26 June 2019. |
| Action | For noting . |
| Corporate Strategy | Performance objective 1: To improve our performance across all our functions so that we are highly effective as a regulator. |
| Business Plan | 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 | Amber Davis, Governance Manager ADavis@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 26 June 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 previously met on 10 April 2019 at the Birmingham office.

3. Workshops

- 3.1 Barts NHS trust gave a presentation which explored research exploring correlations between Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) undergraduate dental students and differences in the outcomes they attain compared to non-protected characteristic students. The presentation looked at facts about BAME students in London, data related to undergraduate dental students, and their student experience in respect of differences in levels of attainment. Workshops followed the presentation which enabled discussion on how this work aligns with the strategic direction of upstream and risk-based QA of Education.
- 3.2 The second workshop focused on Clinical Dental Fellows which provided the Board with an opportunity to hear from Clinical Fellows about their experiences over the past year and supporting young leaders within profession. This provided the Board with an overview of the English clinical dental fellows scheme and the breadth of training provided which is developing key leaders and networks in dentistry.

4 Shifting the balance programme update

- 4.1 The Board received an update on the implementation of the projects contained within the programme. It was noted that some projects in the programme had been delayed due to difficulties with the procurement process though these had now been addressed.
- 4.2 The Board were advised that the improvements to the GDC website, would take place over the weekend of Saturday 10 August 2019- Sunday 11 August 2019 with the website being live from Monday 13 August 2019.

5 Updates on Specialty Development

- 5.1 The Board received an update on the Specialty Working Group (SWG). It was advised that a review of the specialty curricula was a priority as the previous review took place a decade ago.
- 5.2 Further updates included the implementation of a project plan and a newly formed working group.
- 5.3 The Board was also given an overview of plans to review the mediated entry process for specialty applications and welcomed this.

6. Update on Comprehensive model for Complaints Handling

- 6.1 The Board were advised that areas of work within the model for complaints handling included signposting the informants in the right direction and establishing if the informant had made the complaint as a self-referrer, or if they had guidance from legal representation. The Board encouraged the team to consider how best to engage with all stakeholders.

7. Preparedness to Practice

- 7.1 The Head of Regulation Policy and Quality Assurance informed the Board that a successful tender exercise had taken place for the rapid assessment review and that the next tripartite meeting was scheduled for July 2019.
- 7.2 The Board were informed that the next steps would be to have a co-production conference. The Board requested for the paper to be re-worked and distributed for review via correspondence.

8. Publication Protocol: Preparedness of UK dental graduates for practice

- 8.1 The Board reviewed the paper and requested for the paper to be re-worked and presented in a different format in order to contextualise the findings better and provide an indication of the likely emerging policy response.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 The Council is asked to **note** the items discussed by the Board on 26 June 2019.