

Fitness to Practise Committee, 22 February 2012

Fitness to Practise Departmental Work plan

Executive summary and recommendations

**Introduction**

Attached as an appendix to this paper is the draft Fitness to Practise work plan for 2012-13

**Decision**

The Committee is asked to discuss and approve the draft Fitness to Practise department work plan.

**Background information**

None

**Resource implications**

Accounted for in draft 2012-13 budget

**Financial implications**

Accounted for in draft 2012-13 budget

**Appendices**

Appendix One – FTP Departmental Work plan 2012-13

Appendix Two – FTP Departmental Work plan update 2011-12

**Date of paper**

23 January 2011

# **Fitness to Practise Workplan 2012-13**

Introduction.....	- 2 -
Resources .....	- 3 -
Financial Resources .....	- 3 -
Main Operational Processes.....	- 5 -
Other Activities .....	- 6 -
Appendix 1: Fitness to Practice Activities Table 2012-13 .....	9

## **Introduction**

This document sets out the resources, responsibilities and priorities for the financial year April-March 2012-2013. It addresses how the Fitness to Practise department will grow, develop, improve and progress and provides a basis against which the work of the Fitness to Practise department can be planned and measured.

As in previous years, the Fitness to Practise department due to the nature of its work will also have to manage high profile cases which will attract media interest, respond to High Court appeals and manage allegations which require an interim order. It is important that departmental planning allows for timely responses to unpredictable situations when they arise. This year also sees the transfer of the regulatory responsibilities of the General Social Care Council to the HPC with a comprehensive project plan in place to ensure the effective transfer.

## **Resources**

### **Human Resources**

It is anticipated that the fitness to practise directorate will increase from a permanent headcount of 43 employees in 2011-2012 to a permanent headcount of 68 employees in 2012-13. This increase in headcount takes into account both the requirements to manage the work load associated with the existing 15 professions regulated by the HPC and the future regulation of social workers in England. The proposed future structure will help to ensure that the organisation of the directorate will remain fit for purpose in the coming years. The proposed new structure provides for the recruitment in the coming years of the new posts of:

- Head of FTP Assurance and Development
- Head of Investigations
- Head of Licensing
- Hearings Team Leader
- Mediation Manager
- PA to the Heads of FTP Functions
- Case Support Team Manager
- Case Advancement Team Manager
- Case Managers – Advancement Team
- FTP Assurance and Development Officer

### **Financial Resources**

It is anticipated that there will be a fitness to practise budget of approximately £9.8 million.

#### **Forecasting**

The forecast for 2012-13 also includes cases transferred to the future HCPC from the GSCC and new cases concerning social workers in England.

This budget is based on an estimated 1458 new allegations being received in 2012-2013. It is anticipated that case managers will manage approximately 2461 cases over the course of the financial year (this figure includes a carry-over of cases from 2011-12 and a number of cases transferred from the GSCC to the future HCPC).

It is anticipated that there will be approximately 1300 days of hearing in 2012-2013 (comprising of full hearings, consent applications, interim orders, review hearings, investigating panels and registration appeal panels). It is anticipated that approximately 370 cases will be concluded in 2012-2013. The budget is based on hiring external venues outside of London as hearings are also held in Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and other English venues every year.

The budget estimate also includes CHRE and registrant appeals to the High Court, appeals against registration appeal decisions, protection of title field work and other tribunal related works. The costs of appeals that were made in previous financial years and but not concluded are also included in the 2012-2013 budget.

The budget is also predicated on fitness to practise case managers presenting interim orders, Article 30 review hearings, consent applications and some conviction FTP cases. Case Managers present all investigating panel and health and character cases to the investigating/registration panel.

## **Main Operational Processes**

There are five main processes which generate the majority of the department's work. These are listed below. This work plan will be amended accordingly in line with increased operational requirements.

### **1. Fitness to Practise Allegations**

The investigation of allegations to the effect that a registrant's fitness to practise is impaired and the management of cases through to their conclusion. This includes witness liaison, instructing lawyers and preparing and presenting cases at investigating, interim order, final and review stage.

### **2. Hearings Management**

The organisation and scheduling of all fitness to practise and registration appeals hearings and all follow up work related to hearing outcomes

### **3. Health and Character Declarations management**

The process by which HPC manages declarations from registrants and applicants on admission, readmission and renewal to the register.

### **4. Prosecutions of Offences**

The investigation and management of offences under Article 39 of the Health Professions Order 2001. This includes field investigation and prosecuting offences in the magistrates court.

### **5. Registration Appeals**

The management of cases where an applicant or registrant has appealed against a registration decision.

## **Other Activities**

There are a number of other areas and activities which support and affect the processes operated by the Fitness to Practise department. The following paragraphs summarise these activities.

### **1. Publications**

A number of publications are produced by the fitness to practise team – ranging from the fitness to practise annual report and brochures explaining the processes, through to practice notes on interim orders and allegations, and other documents such as those explaining the registration appeals process. These documents are updated and reviewed regularly.

### **2. Website**

The department is responsible for information provided on the HPC website regarding fitness to practise hearings as well as the information online about the fitness to practise and protection of title processes.

### **3. Panel recruitment, selection and training**

In 2021-12 the department will work with the Partners Team to appoint, reappoint, train and appraise panel members, panel chairs and legal assessors.

Review days will take place for Legal Assessors and Panel chairs. These review days are used to update legal assessors and panel chairs on regulatory law updates, provide feedback on CHRE learning points and look at ways to improve decision making.

The department will continue to design and deliver the training of all new panel members, including two day training sessions for all new panel members, and the on-going programme of refresher training for existing partners. We will continue to send quarterly updates to all partners in the form of a newsletter on the work of the department and other relevant updates.

### **4. Committee Work**

We will continue to work with the Fitness to Practise Committee, Education and Training Committee, Finance and Resources Committee and Council as appropriate.

### **5. Liaison with stakeholders**

We will continue to work with all stakeholders (including employers of registrants) to improve understanding and accessibility and feedback trends that have arisen out of fitness to practise cases. The department will continue to support the Communications department with representation at conferences and employer events and will continue to present to relevant stakeholders on the fitness to practise process. We will continue to be involved in advisory groups (such as those run by

CHRE and the Department of Health) and quarterly meetings with Unions and Professional Body groups.

## **6. Transfer of new professions**

We will work to ensure the effective and efficient handover of conduct cases from the General Social Care Council

## **7. High Court cases**

We will continue to manage high court cases – this includes both cases when registrants appeal the decision to find their fitness to practise impaired and/or impose a sanction and when CHRE refer a case in accordance with Section 29(4) of the National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002. We will ensure that we disseminate outcomes as appropriate and make any necessary changes or improvement to fitness to practise processes.

## **8. Supplier Management**

We will closely manage our relationship with all our key suppliers, including keeping under review our contracts and service level agreements with these suppliers

## **9. Major Projects**

Members of the fitness to practise department will also contribute to and be on the project team for the following projects:

- Fitness to Practise Case Management System
- Transfer of the regulatory functions of the General Social Care Council
- Partner systems review
- Finance system upgrade
- Regulation of traditional Chinese medicine practitioners and herbalists
- Setting up and maintaining voluntary registers.

## **10. Other**

We will work with the Registrations department to ensure that common areas of work are effectively managed.

We will also work with policy and standards department in responses to consultations, the CHRE performance review and in providing statistical information for research and work that that department is undertaking.

We will also continue with reviewing cases to determine whether a referral to the ISA or Barring Board is necessary and respond to requests for information from those organisations as appropriate.

## **Achieving the Fitness to Practise Department Objectives 2012-2013**

The headline objectives for 2012-2013 are broadly the same as previous years but with different tasks to meet the objectives. Those objectives are as follows:

- **Ensure accessibility and improve communication and information provision** – we will continue to look at ways in which we can ensure that all stakeholders that come into contact with any element of the work of the Fitness to Practise Department receive a high quality of information and service.
- **TEffective Management and Development of Legislative and New Operational requirements** – There are a number of legislative and operational projects and developments which will require the input, involvement and leadership of the fitness to practise department in 2012-2013 We will endeavour to ensure that those projects and developments are managed within agreed timescales.
- **Consistent and effective decision making** – We will endeavour to continue to improve the quality, consistency and effectiveness of decision making, both by panels and members of the department.
- **Ensure processes and procedures are working to their best effect** – We will continue review our way of working to ensure we meet the HPC's goal to ensure public protection whilst balancing the human rights of registrants.
- **Ensure effective management or resources** – We will undertake further activities to ensure we manage effectively the resources in place to support the work of the department.
- **Ensure effective management or risk** – The Fitness to practise directorate manages a number of risks in relation to its functions. We will ensure we will continue to manage these risks appropriately.

### **Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment**

We will ensure that as we complete our work plan and review the policies and procedures that are in place, we will ensure we will take into account any issues that could have an adverse impact and mitigate against this.

We will continue to aim to improve accessibility to the fitness to practise process.

## Fitness to Practice Activities Table 2012-2013

### Ensure accessibility and improve communication and information provision

Activity	Rationale	Description	Timescale	Role(s) responsible
Fitness to Practise Annual Report	Legislative requirement	Production of 2012-2013 Fitness to Practise Annual Report	April –June 2012 write report  26 May 2012 – seek committee approval  7 July 2012 – seek Council approval  September 2012 - publish	Investigations Manager
Attendance at Employer Events	Ensure awareness for employers of how the fitness to practise process	Attend and participate in the continuing series of employer events	To be confirmed	All

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Role(s) responsible</b>
	works			
Practice note review and development	Aid to all parties involved in fitness to practise proceedings. To ensure HPC proceedings remain open and transparent to all parties	Ensure all practice notes are kept up to date, remain fit for purpose and take account of relevant High Court or Court of Appeal Decisions	On-going	Director of Fitness to Practise
Stakeholder management meetings	To continue to improve awareness of the Fitness to Practise process amongst all stakeholders groups	To engage and attend meetings with all relevant stakeholder groups	On-going	All
Continued liaison with other departments – in particular, Communications, Registrations and Partners	Ensure effective liaison and communication with other departments to assist in meeting the objectives of the department and wider organisation	Continued liaison with other departments, in particular Communications, Registrations and Partners	On-going	All

## Effective Management and Development of Legislative and New Operational requirements

Activity	Rationale	Description	Timescale	Role(s) responsible
Implementation of Case Management System	Ensure HPC is able to continue to effectively manage all types of cases	Go-live with the new case management system in April 2012	April 2012	Case Management System Project Team
Undertake requirements of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups and Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act and keep up to date with any changes	Legislative requirement	Continue to refer cases as appropriate  Engage with the relevant stakeholders and keep up to date with any changes in this area	On-going	Director of Fitness to Practise, Head of Case Management
Transfer of the General Social Care Council	Legislative requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to engage with GSCC regarding the proposed transfer</li> <li>- Effective transfer of cases</li> <li>- Provide advice and guidance to the GSCC on conduct case files</li> <li>- Organise appropriate training for the team in preparation for the transfer (see separate departmental training section)</li> </ul>	Until August 2012	Director of Fitness to Practise, Head of Case Management, Head of Adjudication

Herbalists and Traditional Chinese Medicine	Legislative requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prepare an operational model of licensing</li> <li>- Prepare training material</li> <li>- Prepare standard documents</li> </ul>	To be defined	Head of FTP Assurance and Development
Modern and Efficient Adjudication	Ensure operational processes are reviewed as per the work plan prepared following the publication of CHRE's paper titled 'Modern and Efficient Adjudication'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Put in place enhanced quality assurance, case progression and feedback mechanisms</li> <li>- Operational efficiencies</li> <li>- Wider use of consensual disposal</li> <li>- Post case to answer – settlement conferences</li> <li>- Support mechanisms and advisory services</li> <li>- Research and review a new model of adjudication</li> <li>- Independent Adjudicative models</li> <li>- Review and implement enhanced Case Management Techniques to aid in the speedy conclusion of cases</li> <li>- Fitness to Practise in the 'round'</li> </ul>	Throughout 2012-13	Director of Fitness to Practise, Head of Case Management, Head of Adjudication, Head of FTP Assurance and Development
Effective communication within the department	To ensure that adequate communication methodologies are in place in preparation for the on-going growth of the department	Develop and enhance communication methodologies strategy	Feb 2012- Aug 2012	Director of Fitness to Practise

## Consistent and effective decision making

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Role(s) responsible</b>
Review of decisions	Ensure effective decisions and feedback any learning into policy documents and feedback for stakeholders	Feedback learning from decisions to registrants and stakeholders and incorporate into review of relevant policy documents. Ensure decisions are of a high quality	On-going	Head of Adjudication, Hearings Manager, Head of Assurance and Development
CHRE learning points	Ensure cases are appropriately managed and that decisions are well reasoned	Review and feedback learning points from CHRE in their section 29 role to improve HPC's processes and procedures and to improve decision making	On-going	Head of Adjudication, Hearings Manager, Head of Assurance and Development
Panel Chair, Legal Assessor and Panel member review and training days	Ensure effective decision making and that information is properly disseminated	Prepare and present review and training days for FTP partners	On-going	All
Partner recruitment	Ensure sufficient partners are in place to deal with Fitness to Practise hearings	To assist Partners in the recruitment of panel members in preparation for the transfer of Social Workers	Dec '11 – June '12	Head of Adjudication, Hearings Manager
Partners project	Ensure partner systems and processes are fit for purpose	Contribute to and be part of the project team reviewing partner systems and processes	September 2012- March 2013	Head of Adjudication and Head of FTP

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Role(s) responsible</b>
				Assurance and Development

### **Ensure processes and procedures are working to their best effect**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Role(s) responsible</b>
Operating guidance and standard letters	To aid case management and hearings procedures and to ensure consistency in the handling of all types of cases	Ensure all Fitness to Practise Operational guidance and standard letters are kept up to date, remain fit for purpose and new guidance/ letters are produced as and when necessary.	On-going	All
Review of health and character cases	To review the nature and outcomes of health and character declarations made on admission, readmission and renewal and ensure the process is operating effectively	Review cases managed since the previous review and report findings to the Education and Training Committee	July 2012	Lead Case Manager – CT3 / Investigations Manager
Handling of Data Protection Act and Freedom of Information Act requests relevant to Fitness to Practise	Increasing number of requests	Ensure the department has a clear and consistent approach to the management of such requests and ensure evidence is managed in accordance with those principles	On-going	Investigations Manager
Alternative mechanisms to resolve disputes	As agreed by Council in October 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stakeholder engagement</li> <li>- Stakeholder meetings</li> <li>- Communication plan</li> <li>- Prepare operational pilot</li> </ul>	February – October 2012	Director of Fitness to Practise, Head of Assurance

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Role(s) responsible</b>
		- Implement operational pilot		and Development
Feedback mechanisms	To continue to provide clear communication and use feedback to inform work/ processes – linked to CHRE paper titled ‘modern and efficient adjudication’	Develop questionnaires to send to registrants and complainants and look at whether we can improve communication to those involved in the process	April – July 2012	Head of Adjudication and Head of Assurance and Development
Research on the field of ‘public protection’	To explore the field of ‘public protection’ in regulation and gather an evidence base to assist in informing future work and current processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commission a research brief</li> <li>- Commission a regulatory case law history</li> <li>- Plan a seminar on the topic to be attended by relevant stakeholders</li> </ul>	April 2012- March 2013	Director of Fitness to Practise
Research any links between drink-drive/ drug related offences and health issues	As recommended by Committee in October 2012	Conduct research to look into whether there is a link between drink-drive/ drug related offences and health. Keep HPC’s current process under review	February 2012- October 2012	Head of Case Management, Head of Assurance and Development
Continue to conduct relevant audits of case files and review current processes in this area	To ensure there are adequate quality assurance processes in place	Continue to audit case files and look at whether any improvements or adjustments could be made	On-going	Head of Assurance and Development

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Role(s) responsible</b>
Continue to review and respond to reports issued by CHRE and other relevant organisations	To ensure that the HPC learns from best practice and identifies and addresses any areas of weakness or risk	To continue to review and respond to reports issued by CHRE and other relevant organisations and to present findings to committee / council as appropriate	On-going	Director of Fitness to Practise, Head of Case Management, Head of Adjudication
On-going engagement with CQC and identification of cases suitable for referral	To ensure the HPC is making appropriate referrals to CQC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to identify suitable cases</li> <li>- Referral criteria</li> <li>- Referral form</li> <li>- Training for the team</li> </ul>	On-going	Head of Assurance and Development
Review of the FTP service level standards	To ensure that the FTP service level standards are accurate, up to date and fit for purpose	Review and update the standards as appropriate	May 2012	Investigations Manager
Departmental training	To ensure the Fitness to Practise team are adequately trained to carry out their roles and that they remain up to date with any operational and legislative changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To continue to provide refresher training to the case management and hearings team in the form of FTP workshops</li> <li>- Provide training to the fitness to practise team in preparation for the on-boarding of social workers</li> <li>- To continue to provide profession specific training</li> </ul>	On-going	All

## Ensure Effective Management of Resources

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Role(s) responsible</b>
Forecasting and budget management	Ensure resources are being used to their best effect	On-going forecasting of the number of cases and hearings that are expected and ensure effective controls are in place to manage the fitness to practise budget	On-going	Director of Fitness to Practise
Production of monthly management statistics	Ensure adequate resourcing and forecast	Monthly reporting on key FTP statistics to review statistics in line with forecast	On-going	Director of Fitness to Practise, Head of Case Management

## Fitness to Practise Department work plan update 2011-2012

### Ensure accessibility and improve communication and information provision

Activity	Timescale	Progress Report
Easy Read brochure	October 2011 – April 2012	The 'Easy Read' publication was launched in July 2011. This publication which provides key information about who we register, what types of cases we can and cannot consider and how to make a complaint. It is intended for service users who have communication or learning difficulties and those who work with them. The publication can be found at <a href="http://www.hpc-uk.org/publications/index.asp?id=482">http://www.hpc-uk.org/publications/index.asp?id=482</a>
Fitness to Practise Annual Report	April-September 2011	The FTP Annual report was approved by the Council at its meeting in July 2011 and published in September 2011
Practice Notes	Ongoing	<p>In the YTD (February 2011) new or updated practice notes on the following topics have been approved by Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Article 30(2)</li> <li>- Standard of Acceptance for Allegations</li> <li>- Case to Answer</li> </ul>
Attendance at Employer events	July – November 2011	The cycle of employer events for 2011-12 began in July 2011 with events taking place in Birmingham and Liverpool. Further events took place in October 2011 in London, Cardiff, Edinburgh and Belfast. Attendance at both events was in excess of 80. The events gave delegates an opportunity to ask questions and consider seven

Activity	Timescale	Progress Report
		fitness to practise case studies about when to refer a matter to the HPC.

### Effective Management and Development of Legislative and New Operational requirements

Activity	Timescale	Progress Report
Implementation of an integrated case management system	June 2009 – February 2011 (revised)	Please see separate paper on the FTP Committee agenda for February 2012
Transfer of the General Social Care Council	September 2010 – July 2012 (revised)	<p>Work continues with the GSCC Conduct team as to the handover requirements of cases. Analysis has been done as to the resources required to manage the conduct case load. Data needs have also been finalised.</p> <p>The GSCC and the HPC have also prepared a joint paper for the Department of Health setting out how the HPC can provide advice to guidance to the GSCC on case files in advance of the transfer. Work is underway to implement the operational requirements of that paper.</p> <p>The Executive are preparing papers for consideration by the Council on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the revisions required to the prosecutions policy;</li> <li>- the revisions required to the health and character policy; and</li> <li>- the approach to take to open GSCC student conduct cases.</li> </ul> <p>Over the next few months, relevant documentation and training material will be prepared.</p>

Implementation of the requirements of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups and Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups act	Ongoing	The work in this area continues.
Review the approach the FTP team take towards Freedom of Information Act and Data Protection Act requests including evidence management	April – July 2011	This work has been put on hold pending the delivery of the FTP case management system.

### Consistent and effective decision making

Activity	Timescale	Progress Report
Panel Chair, Legal Assessor and Panel Member review and training days	Ongoing	Training for new panel members has taken place, with refresher training for existing panel members also taking place in the period.  Panel Chair and Legal Assessor review days took place in June and July 2011 respectively.
Monitor updates in regulatory law	Ongoing	Any changes to regulatory case law are reflected in practice notes, the indicative sanctions policy and other policy documents
Quarterly newsletter for fitness to practise partners	Ongoing	Newsletters were issued to all fitness to practise partners in April, July, October 2011 and January 201
CHRE learning points	Ongoing	In accordance with section 29 of the NHS Reform and Healthcare Professions Act 2002, CHRE can refer decisions made by final hearing panels if they feel the decision was under prosecuted or unduly lenient. CHRE also issue learning points which may arise out of the course of their review. The FTP Committee considered a paper reviewing the learning points received by HPC at its meeting in October

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Progress Report</b>
		2011. That paper also set out some of the action taken by the Executive in the light of that review.
Qualitative review of decisions	Ongoing	A paper reviewing Investigating Committee decisions was considered by the FTP Committee in May 2011 with recommendations from that work being taken forward by the Executive. The FTP Committee is due to consider a further paper reviewing decisions made by the Investigating Committee between April and May 2011 at its meeting in February 2012 A paper on final hearing decisions was considered by the FTP Committee in October 2011
Review not well founded decisions	Ongoing	The FTP Committee considered a paper reviewing not well founded decisions at its meeting in October 2011. That paper also set out a range of activity which the Executive is in the process of taking forward.
Adjourned/Postponed hearings	Ongoing	The FTP Committee considered a paper reviewing not well founded decisions at its meeting in October 2011. That paper also set out a range of activity which the Executive is in the process of taking forward.

**Ensure processes and procedures are working to their best effect;**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Progress report</b>
Alternative methods to resolve complaints/ disputes	February 2011 – October 2011	FTP Committee considered a paper at its meeting in May 2011 setting ways in which HPC use alternative mechanisms to resolve disputes in its processes. A stakeholder event took place in May 2011. The Executive engaged Ipsos MORI to undertake further research on the topic. The FTP Committee and Council considered papers on the topic at their respective meetings in October 2011 with a decision made by the Council to proceed with a mediation pilot.
Review Investigating	April 2011	A process is now in place by which some registrant panel members contribute to

Activity	Timescale	Progress report
Committee decision making approach		the decision making of Investigating Committee panels via the telephone. Between April and December 2011 approximately 30 per cent of Investigating Committee panels held using this mechanisms
Review and update approach taken to confidentiality and data security	April – May 2011	Operating guidance has been produced and training provided to the team
Implement new decision making template for final hearing	July 2011	The decision making template for final hearings has been reviewed and updated and is now in use at Final hearings
Operating Guidance and decision making templates	Ongoing	<p>The following operating guidance has been produced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confidentiality and information security</li> <li>Discontinuance of proceedings</li> <li>Restoration to the Register</li> </ul> <p>The following templates have been reviewed or updated:</p> <p>Over 400 documents have been reviewed for migration into the case Management system</p> <p>The following list of operating guidance is due for review by the end of the financial year:</p> <p>All operating guidance as set out below has been reviewed and is due to be signed off in February 2012 in preparation for the roll out of the case management system:</p> <p><b>Initial enquiries and case management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Miscellaneous cases</li> <li>File Structure</li> </ul>

Activity	Timescale	Progress report
		<p>Education complaints  Watchlist  Vexatious complaints  Risk profiling</p> <p><b>FTP case investigation</b>  Case handling and investigations  Investigative Report Writing  Requiring disclosure of information  Taking complaints over the phone  Taking complaints in person  Instructing and Seeking Advice  Instructing Registrant Assessors for ICP</p> <p><b>Obs and ICP stage</b>  Three year Rule  Formulating allegations  Case Investigation Reports  Attending ICPs</p> <p><b>Post case to answer</b>  Disposal of cases by consent  Joinder  Appointing medical assessors at final hearing  Review of Striking Off Orders: New Evidence and Article 30(7)</p> <p><b>Evidence</b>  Physical Evidence Management  Obscene Image Storing</p> <p><b>General reference information</b>  Controlled substance</p>

Activity	Timescale	Progress report
		<p>Binding Over and Discharge by Criminal Courts Police Station Paramedics</p> <p><b>Witnesses</b> Witness interviews Witness management Witness statements</p> <p><b>Hearings</b> Handling the purchase of religious books Risk Management for hearings Sending late documents to panels and legal assessors Presenting Officer Guidance Public or Private Hearings Adjournment Requests</p> <p><b>Prosecution</b> Protection of Title Offences POT field visits Protection of Function Misuse of HPC logo</p> <p><b>Health and character</b> Health and Character</p> <p><b>Registration Appeals</b> Registration Appeals</p> <p><b>Contact with other bodies</b> Signposting Consumer complaints Vetting and Barring referrals</p>

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Progress report</b>
Review of health and character cases	September 2011	This has been delayed pending the completion of the case management system.

### **Ensure Effective Management of Resources**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Role(s) responsible</b>
Ongoing recruitment of partners	Ongoing	<p>Recruitment for new partners has taken place.</p> <p>Recruitment for those partners required for the transfer of the regulatory functions of the GSCC began in September 2011 with all social worker panel member roles filled.</p> <p>Recruitment for new panel chairs has began and a rolling recruitment process for all of panel member roles will take place on an on-going basis.</p> <p>The Executive has also reviewed and updated the role briefs for the various partner roles</p>
Review "human resources" within the FTP department	April 2011	The FTP team are currently being consulted on proposed reorganisation of the FTP team with the creation of new roles and the amendment of existing posts
Ongoing Skills audit of the FTP team	Ongoing	This is an ongoing piece of work
Operational Forecasting	Ongoing	This is an ongoing piece of work. The forecast model for 2012-13 is attached to the FTP department work plan 2012-13 as an appendix.
Budgetary Controls	Ongoing	This is an ongoing piece of work. The Executive has also finalised the

		<p>arrangements for the next two years with regards to the provision of transcription services. It is anticipated that there will be an increased use of 'loggers' and a reduction in the number of requests for a formal transcript to be taken.</p> <p>The service level agreement with the legal service provider for the presentation and preparation of fitness to practise cases has been reviewed and agreed.</p> <p>Work continues with regards to the best use of space and catering.</p>
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