

**Health Professions Council
Standards of Proficiency for Applied Psychologists
Professional Liaison Group (PLG)
4th September 2007**

Workplan

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

The government white paper 'Trust, Assurance and Safety – The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century' said:

'The government is planning to introduce statutory regulation for applied psychologists...' (p. 81).

'Psychologists...will be regulated by the Health Professions Council' (p.85).

On 5th July 2007, the Council agreed that a Professional Liaison Group (PLG) should be set up to draft the standards of proficiency for applied psychologists, in preparation for the opening of the applied psychologists part of the Register. The Council also agreed the text of the attached workplan.

Unless otherwise dictated by a change in the external environment, the applied psychology disciplines to be covered by the standards of proficiency will be the same as those identified in the 2004 Department of Health consultation document: 'Applied Psychology: Enhancing public protection: Proposals for the statutory regulation of applied psychologists' (March 2005). They are:

- Clinical Psychologists
- Counselling Psychologists
- Educational Psychologists
- Forensic Psychologists
- Health Psychologists
- Occupational Psychologists
- Sports and Exercise Psychologists

Decision

This paper is for information only.

Background information

None

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

None

Appendices

None

Date of paper

21st August 2007

Standards of proficiency for Psychologists – Professional Liaison Group (PLG)

Workplan

1. PLG sponsor

The Council

2. PLG Mission Statement / Terms of reference

To draft the standards of proficiency for psychologists.

The PLG should consider all relevant information in drafting the standards which might include:

- national occupational standards for psychologists;
- standards produced by the British Psychological Society; and
- the subject benchmark statement for Psychology produced by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

3. Meetings

The PLG should conclude its work in no more than three meetings.

4. Membership

The PLG should consist of up to ten members. Membership should be drawn from amongst the following groups:

- council members – registrant and lay;
- representatives from the British Psychological Society and other representative organisations;
- representatives from education providers; and
- representatives from patient organisations.

The PLG should be chaired by a member of Council. The Chair and President will be responsible for agreeing the exact membership of the PLG.

5. Timetable and outline of activities

The following is a draft timetable for the PLG's work and includes an outline of the group's activities at each meeting.

The plan assumes that the work will not be concluded in less than three meetings and that an applied psychologists part of the Register will not open before 1 April 2008. As this date is subject to change, any subsequent alterations to the timetable will be agreed with the chair.

12th June 2007

- Education and Training Committee meeting – recommendation of workplan to Council

5th July 2007

- Council meeting – approval of workplan

September 2007

1st meeting of PLG early September

- First draft of standards
- Legal context and background of the standards
- Other standards and frameworks (e.g. mapping of existing standards of proficiency against QAA benchmark statements).

Late September/ early October 2007

2nd Meeting late September/ early October

- Second draft of standards

October 2007

3rd meeting October

- Final draft of standards

Standards to be approved for consultation via chair's action of the chair of the Education and Training Committee.

November 2007 to January 2008

Public consultation

February 2008

Writing of consultation responses and revision of draft standards following consultation. Decisions arising from the consultation will take place with the agreement of the PLG chair and in liaison with the PLG membership.

Electronic ratification of new standards by the Education and Training Committee and by Council.

Laying out and publication of new standards in advance of the opening date of the Register.