



Regulation Council

Annual work programme 2017-2018

V1.0

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1. Introduction and summary

The healthcare science workforce is an essential part of the clinical team with the potential to do real harm to patients should things go wrong. The Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS) Regulation Council's core purpose is to reduce this risk and keep patients safe. This is achieved through structures and processes, including maintaining a register, for healthcare science workers and others that are not statutory regulated.

The Register was accredited by the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care (PSA) in December 2014 for Practitioners and extended to include Higher Specialist Scientists in October 2015. Applications are with PSA to accredit other parts of the Register ..

Accreditation demonstrates that the Register meets the PSA high standards in governance, standard-setting, education and training, management of the register, complaints handling and information.

The Academy has also developed a Regulatory Framework which will enable the organisation to respond to and provide right touch Regulation, the cluster approach will also enable expansion into other areas such as Directories and Accredited credentialing registers

This is referenced in the Regulatory Framework document,

This Annual work plan sets out the Regulation Council programme of work for 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 allowing for planning, prioritisation, and monitoring against key performance indicators. This year's plan is clear, that the Register needs to be a sustainable and shows growth.

This is a key priority for the AHCS Board too.

So, that is set within the context of the following

- 1 - establish and maintain a sustainable register of the healthcare science workforce, while maximising the coverage and minimising the costs of registration;
- 2 - set, maintain and review standards of ethics, competence, conduct and performance and continuing professional development for members of the healthcare science workforce;
- 3 - meet and maintain the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care (PSA) standards for Register accreditation;
- 4 - maintain the confidence of the public in the system of registration for the healthcare science workforce; and
- 5 - support and inform the Academy on statutory regulation of the healthcare science workforce.

The annual plan sets out details of the activities that will be undertaken in 2017/18 which will contribute towards the achievement of these objectives.

Performance against this plan will be reported and monitored by the Regulation Council and published in the annual report.

2. Workplan

2.1 Strategic Objective 1 - Establish and maintain a sustainable register of the healthcare science and healthcare workforce, while maximising the coverage and minimising the costs of, registration

Actions:

Maximise all opportunities to increase numbers on the register.

Improve communication

Improve marketing

Actively seek new business opportunities

Be innovative and creative in strategic partnerships with professional bodies, four countries and other groups and regulators

Engage with HEIs and other educational establishments

KPIs (Key Performance indicators)

Deliver x numbers onto the register Drafting note link this to Academy sustainability plan

Total to be confirmed

2.2 Objective 2 - set, maintain and review standards of ethics, competence, conduct and performance and continuing professional development for all registrants

Actions:

In order to meet this objective the standards will be reviewed as part of the annual monitoring and reporting process, informed by any complaints received during the year. The Standards are reviewed and maintained by the Education Training and Professional Standards Committee and changes will be approved by the Regulation Council before publication.

The rules are reviewed and maintained by the Regulation Council and any changes will be approved by the Council before publication.

Good Scientific Practice is owned by the Education Training and Professional Standards Committee and will be reviewed during 2016/17, taking into account the expansion of the Register to other parts.

There will be a CPD audit during 2017.

KPIs:

1. Monitoring of all complaints
2. Successful resolution of any complaints and zero unresolved complaints of inconsistencies across the register
3. CPD audit completed
4. Standards and Rules reviewed and published
5. Good Scientific Practice reviewed

2.3 Objective 3 meet and maintain the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care (PSA) standards for accreditation;

Actions:

PSA renewal in January 2016 was granted with instructions. This will need to be met by June 2017

There is an ongoing learning point

“The Academy should continue to implement its service user and public engagement strategy to inform and involve the public and service users in what they do”

The Regulation Council will ensure this learning point is adhered to.

PSA are likely to move to a continuous oversight review so we will be monitored on an ongoing basis

Ensure the quality assurance work including the Standards of Education and Training remain fit for purpose through the Education, Training and Professional Standards Committee.

The development work around new business will be cognisant of this objective ensuring that any new business for accredited registers is developed within the regulation framework and that it does not risk the accreditation status that has been achieved. Any new work to promote patient safety such as directories will work within the principles of good regulation and promote public confidence.

KPIs:

6. PSA continued accreditation

2.4 Objective 4 - maintain the confidence of the public in the system of registration for healthcare science

Actions:

In order to deliver this objective, the Regulation Council will ensure engagement with the patient and public involvement representatives to review any communications, processes and public-facing documentation including the new look website. This engagement will allow for the view of lay users to be determined helping the Regulation Council improve and maintain the public's confidence in our work.

Other opportunities to further engage with patient, public and lay organisations will be identified.

KPIs:

7. Training of Lay representatives to undertake investigations and complaints.
8. Zero unresolved complaints regarding accessibility and understanding of the register and the Regulation Council work.
9. Positive feedback from users of the website, including positive feedback from patients and/or patient groups.
10. Annual report published to include progress with patient and lay involvement; commitment to publishing outcomes of all Fitness to Practice cases.

2.5 Objective 5 - support and inform the Academy on statutory regulation of healthcare scientists

Action:

The thinking may have moved on and continues to evolve since the development of the SORI. The Regulation Council will continue to gather evidence on the effectiveness of the accredited register in mitigating risks posed by the registrants. The Regulation Council will continue to explore the regulatory landscape including the 'theory of regulation – based on right touch thinking' and any new legislation following the 'rethinking regulation' publication'. In doing so the Council will continue to formulate its own opinions and begin to articulate its views directly as a Regulation Council, this includes, but is not restricted to responding to consultations, continued dialogue with the PSA and producing Council reports and position papers as appropriate.

KPIs:

11. Engagement with Registrants through newsletters and focus groups
12. Publication of position papers and reports proactively as well as in response to consultations and healthcare changes.
13. Chair attends AHCS Board meetings.
14. Regulation council and Registrar actively involved in any conferences.

