



**AHCS**  
Academy for Healthcare Science

# AHCS Update Report

HCS Registration Council  
9<sup>th</sup> February 2021



# CPD Audit



- CPD Audit of HCS practitioner registrants suspended since March 2020 due to pressures on NHS staff resulting from Covid-19 pandemic
- Council agreed to monitor the situation with decision to be reviewed in June 2021
- CPD Audit process to be revised:
  - to link with practitioner's personal appraisal & development plans
  - statements and evidence to be signed off by their line manager
  - full proposal to be presented in June 2021

# Equivalence



- Equivalence numbers are increasing consistently
- More enquiries about Practitioner Training Programme (PTP) Equivalence
- More recognition of these roles and the importance of registration in response to the Covid-19 pandemic
- Higher Specialist Scientist application completion figures are increasing, but slower than expected
- NSHCS have advised that this is due to the impact of Covid-19 on trainees completing their programmes



## GCRB observation

- Head of Standards observation of Genetic Counsellor Registration Board registrant assessment process
- The process is rigorous and robust
- Can be time-intensive particularly for the moderators
- The number of moderators is under review



## Practitioner Training Programme – Completion & Registration

- A proposal was received to introduce a third algorithm to calculate final degree classifications, to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on learning
- It is not for the Academy to have a view on how Universities determine their degree classifications
- Registration Council's remit is whether the outcomes have been achieved successfully in order for candidates to apply for registration.

# Learning thoughts on Apprenticeships



- Academy will soon be ceasing its External Quality Assurance (EQA) role, handing over to either Ofqual or the Office for Students
- Uptake of apprenticeships at Level 2 (Healthcare Science Associate) and Level 4 (Healthcare Science Associate) slower than expected
- Covid-19 had a significant impact on completing the End-Point Assessment (EPA)
- Implementation of the published EPA plans for the Level 2 and Level 4 HCS apprenticeship was challenging
- Academy needs to be involved in review of the 3 HCS apprenticeship standards and EPA plans
- Critical to have an expert understanding of healthcare science education, training & workforce within the EQA process.

# Learning thoughts on Apprenticeships



## Going forward

- The Academy will be establishing non-PSA accredited registers:
  - Healthcare Science Assistant (Level 2) and
  - Healthcare Science Associate (Level 4)
  - Governed by the HCS Registration Council
- Academy's website will be updated to:
  - Confirm the new EQA arrangements
  - Promote the Assistant & Associate Registers (when approved)
  - Provide links to apprenticeship guidance