

May 2016

## Routes to register task & finish group - Summary report No. 1

*From UKPHR 18c McLaren Building, 46, Priory Queensway, Birmingham B4 7LR*

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### ***Progress to date***

UKPHR's task & finish group has been working on the review of routes to registration for public health specialists since September 2015. There have been 3 meetings of the task & finish group which has also been assisted by the responses to 2 consultations with registrants and wider stakeholders.

In April 2016 the task & finish group submitted its recommendations to UKPHR's Education & Training Committee. After consideration of the task & finish group's recommendations, the Committee's Chair, Selena Gray, wrote a report to UKPHR's Board in time for its meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016 in Birmingham.

The report included recommendations for continuation of the Standard Route and Dual Registration, replacement of the RSS (Recognition of Specialist Status) and defined specialist routes with a single portfolio assessment route and revision of standards, guidance and processes where appropriate in order to meet the task & finish group's recommended new framework for specialist registration.

### ***Board decisions on 26 April***

At its meeting, the Board accepted the recommendations of the task & finish group and the Education & Training Committee and agreed to move forward with the proposed new framework for specialist registration.

The Board agreed that the proposed new framework should be published for consultation in due course but first the Board wished to engage a contractor to advise on the changes to standards, guidance and processes that would be required to support the new framework.

The Board judged that much of the work which will be carried out by the contractor will be necessary whatever the outcome of the consultation and further deliberations by the task & finish group, Education & Training Committee and Board. For example, standards need to be revised to reflect the new 2015 curriculum for the Specialty Training Programme, the guidance will require consequential revision and UKPHR would wish to move to electronic submission of portfolios in the future. The Board also felt that the contractor's work will improve the quality of the subsequent consultation.

### **Next steps**

UKPHR now intends to invite tenders for the work necessary to revise standards, guidance and processes in line with the review of routes to registration for public health specialists.

Once the contractor has reported to UKPHR, a consultation will be undertaken for 12 weeks in order to seek views on the proposed new framework for specialist registration. It is hoped that a wide range of consultees will respond and assist UKPHR in making the eventual new routes to registration framework as good as it can be.

Key measures of success according to UKPHR's Board are that the new framework for specialist registration will be:

- Equitable across the various routes
- Robust in maintaining high standards of competence within the public health leadership group.

### **Timetable**

The work of a contractor to review and advise on changes to current standards, guidance and processes is expected to take approximately 3 months.

Thereafter, consultation is likely to require a further 3 months.

The Board expects that news of the consultation will go out as widely as possible and that 12 weeks should be allowed for responses. All responses will be considered and assessed and the Board will look again at the proposed new framework in the light of the responses received.

It is hoped to introduce the new framework during 2017. The Board will, in the meantime, give consideration to the need for transitional and, possibly, "grandfathering" arrangements.

An indicative timetable for the work still to be carried out is as follows:

May 2016	Invitation to tender for review of standards, guidance and processes
June 2016	Selection of contractor
September 2016	Task & finish group, Education & Training Committee & Board consider contractor's report and settle proposed framework for consultation
December 2016	Earliest date for commencement of consultation
March 2017	Task & finish group, Education & Training Committee & Board consider responses to consultation and what changes, if any, need to be made to proposed framework
July 2017	Earliest possible date to implement new routes to register (and subject to decisions made as to transition and grandfathering)

***In the meantime, UKPHR's existing routes to registration for public health specialists continue to be open. UKPHR is currently dealing with approximately 50 portfolios for assessment (RSS and defined specialist) and has reason to expect receipt of more during 2016.***

If you want to give or receive further information about UKPHR's work on revalidation, please **CONTACT**:

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