Revalidation for registrants gets go-ahead from UKPHR's Board

UKPHR's Board has approved a scheme for revalidation which will in due course be a 5-yearly compulsory requirement for UKPHR's registrants. Chair Patrick Saunders describes this as a "massive step forward for UKPHR".

Registrants are carefully checked to assure their competence when they are first registered by UKPHR. Revalidation is the process by which registrants are subsequently required to demonstrate on a regular basis (every five years) that they are up to date and fit to continue to practise in public health and they are able to provide a good quality of service. This means that being on UKPHR's register will be an assurance that registrants continue to meet the professional standards set and upheld by UKPHR.

Chair Patrick Saunders says that this is a very important stage in UKPHR's development:

"UKPHR has worked hard to develop a revalidation scheme. We see it as part of our public reassurance as well as a demonstration of professional assurance to be in a position to introduce revalidation. It is a massive step forward for UKPHR to be able to check once every five years that registrants have maintained and enhanced their competence and quality of service. We are a small organisation and development of this revalidation scheme has been very demanding. We have been greatly assisted by the work of a task & finish group containing representatives of some of our public health partner organisations as well as the input from two public consultations. The Board is confident that the result is a scheme which is fit for purpose and improves on UKPHR's existing procedures."

The next steps will be for UKPHR to raise awareness of the new revalidation requirements amongst registrants, applicants for registration, employers and other stakeholders as well as the public at large and thereafter to pilot the arrangements to make sure that they will work in practice. In 2018, UKPHR will start to introduce revalidation as a mandatory element of registration.

UKPHR decided back in 2010 that once the General Medical Council introduced revalidation for medical practitioners, UKPHR needed to introduce revalidation for its registrants despite   there being no statutory requirement. UKPHR intends to introduce revalidation in place of its existing re-registration process over the next three years.

ENDS

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

1. The UK Public Health Register (UKPHR) is already the independent regulator for the public health workforce in the UK. It operates a register accredited by Professional Standards Authority for professionals who work in public health. It is a Registered Charity.

2.	UKPHR has been registering public health specialists since 2003. In more recent times UKPHR has commenced registration in respect of public health practitioners and Public Health Specialty Registrars.

3.	The public health workforce is multi-disciplinary and employers, including local authorities, can look to registration as an assurance of competence.

4.	The main purpose of the regulation of members of the public health workforce is to protect, promote and maintain the health and safety of the public. Regulation is important to protect the public, individually and collectively, from bad, harmful and professionally unacceptable public health practice. UKPHR achieves this by ensuring registrants achieve and maintain requisite standards of competence, knowledge and experience as well as adhere to agreed standards of ethical practice.

5.	UKPHR is in law a Company limited by Guarantee and its governance is in the hands of a Board of Directors (a maximum of 12 Directors). UKPHR is registered at Companies House. It is also a registered charity in England & Wales and in Scotland. Its original register is accredited by the Professional Standards Authority under a statutory scheme. The new register is accredited by IUHPE (International Union for Promotion of Health and Education).

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