

## Bulletin: Issue 28

### Meeting of Council: 20 May 2009

#### Financial statements for 2008

The financial statements for 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008 were adopted by Council. Council noted the auditor's view that, in terms of organisation and procedures, the GCC is in the top 5% of its 1000 clients.

#### CHRE Report of 2008 performance review

Council welcomed CHRE's report on the GCC's performance in 2008. Members noted that there are:

- Eight identified areas of excellence
- No area that is less than good performance
- No areas where improvement is required.

#### Report from the Governance Working Group

Council noted the Governance Working Group's report and agreed to its proposed revisions to the:

- Governance policy
- Terms of reference for the Resource Management Committee and the Audit Committee
- Standing Orders of the General Chiropractic Council.

#### Criteria for items to be discussed in closed business

Reflecting Council's commitment to openness and transparency, members agreed that matters will be discussed in closed business only where the wider public interest requires it. In this context, the specific criteria will be:

- a. The item includes personal data
- b. The item concerns matters of commercial confidentiality
- c. The item includes discussion of the GCC's resource plans
- d. The item includes discussion of risk to the GCC that might be exacerbated by discussion in public
- e. The item includes matters of policy or strategy in respect of which public discussion would be premature.

#### GCC (Registration) (Amendment) Rules

General Council agreed, in principle, that the General Chiropractic Council (Registration)(Amendment) Rules Order of Council should be made. In effect, this would mean that the GCC can amend, as and when necessary, application forms previously set out in statutory instruments. For example, amendments will be made to enable:

- Registrants in the Channel Islands, Isle of Man or a State in the European Economic Area to apply for non-practising registration status; and
- The removal of the £75 fee paid by registrants who wish to change their registration contact details.

#### Equality Scheme: disability, gender and race

General Council agreed an Equality Scheme in respect of disability, gender and race. Members noted that Chiropractic Professional Organisations, Chiropractic Patients' Association and the Lay Partnership Group of the College of Chiropractors had been consulted and a majority had confirmed that they had no comments. It was noted that the Council of the College of Chiropractors expressed a strong view that where there is currently no legal or statutory duty i.e. in relation to sexual orientation, religion and belief, the GCC should not begin to seek data. Members noted that forthcoming legislation will require the GCC to do so.

#### Review of Disclosure Policy

Council reviewed and agreed amendments the GCC's Disclosure Policy. Council considered it to be in the public interest that where the GCC's Professional Conduct Committee determined that a respondent chiropractor's ability to practise is removed, either by an Order to remove registration (striking-off) or suspension of registration, a press release should be published and the relevant news outlets local to the respondent's area of practice should be notified.

#### Revalidation

Council agreed that the Revalidation Working Group would be reconvened. Membership will include representatives from Chiropractic Professional Organisations, representatives of patients and members of the public.

#### Code of Conduct for committee members

Council agreed a Code of Conduct for members of the Investigating, Professional Conduct and Health Committees.

**Date of next meeting: 18 August 2009**