Results of an online questionnaire for registrants on their views of the current Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Scheme

Introduction
In 2013 the GCC sent out a questionnaire to gain registrants views on the current CPD scheme.

The questionnaire forms one strand of the Council’s work on reviewing CPD. The results of the survey will be used to inform the future review of the CPD scheme. This is likely to be undertaken after the development of the system of revalidation.

Who completed the survey?
1 465 responses were received in total by the closing date (ie 16.9% of the registrant base).
2 94% of respondents stated that they were on the practising register.
3 51.9% (222) of respondents were male and 48.1% (206) respondents were female.
4 In relation to age, respondents are shown in the table below compared with the overall registration population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Registrant population 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 30</td>
<td>44 (10.3%)</td>
<td>421 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-44</td>
<td>198 (46.5%)</td>
<td>1362 (49%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 – 59</td>
<td>155 (36.4%)</td>
<td>850 (30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 +</td>
<td>29 (6.8%)</td>
<td>175 (6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not stated</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total respondents</td>
<td>426 (100%)</td>
<td>2808 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 97.4% (412) of individuals who responded to the question of whether they had a disability (n=423) stated they did not have disability whereas 11 respondents (2.6%) state they had some form of disability.

6 The table below sets out information on respondents’ ethnicity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Registrant population 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>11 (2.7%)</td>
<td>2.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>1 (0.2%)</td>
<td>0.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>10 (2.4%)</td>
<td>1.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>380 (92%)</td>
<td>70.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>11 (2.7%)</td>
<td>1.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not stated</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>23.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total respondents</td>
<td>413 (100%)</td>
<td>(100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The results

How would you describe the area in which you live?

- a. Urban with many CPD opportunities close by: 28.1% (124)
- b. Urban but with few opportunities for CPD in travelling distance: 33.5% (148)
- c. Rural but I can get to CPD opportunities relatively easily: 9.7% (43)
- d. Rural. Accessing CPD opportunities is difficult and involves a lot: 28.7% (127)

Please describe your work environment?

- a. I practise chiropractic on my own (i.e. as a sole practitioner): 20.5% (129)
- b. I share a building with others but do not share a practice: 5.2% (33)
- c. I share a practice with other chiropractors: 19.5% (116)
- d. I share a practice with other healthcare professionals: 10.0% (64)
- e. I share a practice with other chiropractors and with other health...: 27.4% (171)
- f. I am not practising chiropractic at the moment: 1.5% (7)
- g. Other (please explain): 7.2% (45)
Within the current scheme you are asked to record at least one learning cycle. Are you clear what this means?

- a. Yes I am clear what this means and it is straightforward to do: 53.9% (247)
- b. It’s not difficult but I’m not sure of the value of doing it: 36.7% (168)
- c. No I am unclear what I am meant to record in the different pots: 9.4% (43)

The first stage of the learning cycle is identifying your learning needs and interests. How do you usually do this? (Please choose the three most common approaches you use below and then put them in rank order, starting with 1 as the most common).

- a. Identify the new skills and knowledge I need to develop: 52.3% (145)
- b. Identify whether I need to stay up to date or enhance my skills: 53.2% (65)
- c. I think about what has changed in the external environment (e.g. ...): 40.6% (152)
- d. I identify areas of interest to me: 35.6% (133)
- e. I see what learning is available (e.g. conferences and courses) a...: 36.3% (134)
- f. I undertake some learning and then go back to complete that etc.: 45.3% (78)
- g. Other (please explain in the box below): 28.0% (120)
You are currently asked to relate your learning needs and interests to either improving patient care or the development of the profession. Are you clear in your own mind what these options mean?

- **a.** I just guess which category my learning should go in: 2.4% (11)
- **b.** I am not really clear but I try to do it as best I can: 10.3% (47)
- **c.** I think I understand if but I am not really confident in making it...: 17.2% (79)
- **d.** Yes I think it is straightforward to do this and not a problem: 64.8% (287)
- **e.** Other (please explain): 5.2% (24)

What do you see as the purpose of relating your learning needs and interests to either improving patient care or the development of the profession?

- **a.** I can't see any purpose in it as it does not relate to anything else: 7.2% (33)
- **b.** I am not sure of its purpose: 13.3% (61)
- **c.** I think it's probably important but not sure why: 3.3% (15)
- **d.** It enables the GCC to identify which registrants are focussing on...: 13.8% (63)
- **e.** It makes me think about whether I am focussing on improvements to...: 53.9% (247)
- **f.** Other (please explain): 8.5% (39)
The second stage of the learning cycle is planning the learning you will undertake. Do you think the distinction between identifying your learning needs and interests, and planning the learning you will undertake to meet those needs and interests is sufficiently clear?

- a. Yes it is quite straightforward. First you identify what you need... 59.6% (273)
- b. I sort of understand it but don't always find it an easy thing to do 15.5% (71)
- c. No it makes no sense to me - I see them as one and the same thing 18.8% (85)
- d. Other (please explain) 6.1% (28)

The third stage of the learning cycle is undertaking learning to meet your identified needs and interests. The current scheme requires you to undertake at least 15 hours of learning with others. How do you view learning with other people?

- a. Learning with others challenges my knowledge and skills and helps... 35.3% (161)
- b. Learning with others helps me benchmark my practice against that... 9.6% (43)
- c. I prefer to learn with others as this suits my learning style 15.1% (68)
- d. Some forms of learning with others are valuable but not all 33.8% (152)
- e. I see no added value in making me undertake learning with others 2.0% (9)
- f. None of the above 3.8% (17)
Do you think there is value in asking you to undertake a minimum number of hours of CPD each year?

- a. Yes it shows that I am keeping up-to-date and developing myself: 54.9% (247)
- b. Yes in principle but there should be more hours required: 4.9% (22)
- c. No counting hours says nothing about the quality of learning that...: 31.3% (141)
- d. Other: 8.9% (40)

At the moment you are asked to record the learning you do with others as well as the learning you do on your own. Do you think there is value in recording the learning you do on your own?

- a. Yes it gives me the chance to do some hours alone in case I'm not: 51.6% (232)
- b. Not really as without reading and research I wouldn't be able to: 34.7% (156)
- c. No: 13.8% (62)
The fourth stage of the learning cycle is evaluating the effectiveness of your learning and, if it was of value, applying it to your practice. What do you see the value of evaluating your learning to be?

- a. It's a necessary stage in reflecting on my learning and whether m... 44.0% (198)
- b. I can see that it is meant to have some value but I find it diffic... 12.4% (50)
- c. I do evaluate the value but cannot see the point of recording it 25.6% (115)
- d. I can't see the purpose of it as once I have done some learning! 10.0% (45)
- e. Other (please explain) 8.0% (36)

How difficult do you find describing how your learning has been applied to your practice?

- a. It is straightforward as I can normally identify how my learning 43.8% (197)
- b. It's straightforward to identify but I cannot see the point of re... 16.7% (75)
- c. It is generally straightforward but I find it more difficult when... 16.2% (73)
- d. I find it difficult to identify and record how I have applied the... 8.2% (37)
- e. I find it difficult as I am not currently practising 0.7% (3)
- f. I don't find it difficult but I can't see the purpose of reporting... 3.2% (44)
- g. Other (please explain) 4.7% (21)
We would like to understand why you have chosen not to use the online CPD system to date. Is it because:

- a. You dislike anything to do with computers: 3.2% (5)
- b. You tried the system and found it difficult to use: 17.4% (27)
- c. You are worried about the system security and concerned that the...: 1.9% (3)
- d. You are worried about the system stability and concerned you might: 4.5% (7)
- e. You tend to make your learning notes etc. on paper so would rather: 37.4% (68)
- f. Other (please explain): 35.5% (55)

What would you most like to change about the current CPD system?

- a. The hours requirement: 7.6% (31)
- b. Having to record the learning cycle: 26.6% (114)
- c. Identifying learning needs and interests: 5.7% (20)
- d. Linking learning needs and interests to improving patient care or: 9.3% (41)
- e. Planning learning: 6.1% (27)
- f. The split between learning with others and learning on your own: 10.2% (48)
- g. Evaluating learning: 6.6% (30)
- h. Other (please explain your answer—further here): 27.4% (121)