

NHSCR Governance Board
Review of the Future of the NHSCR – Progress on Recommendations

Background

1. A fundamental review of the work of the NHSCR was carried out in the latter half of 2003, under the leadership of the SEHD Deputy Chief Medical Officer, on behalf of the NHS. A copy of the Review Group's report is appended to paper NHSCR GB 1/05.

Progress on Recommendations

2. The recommendations are set out in Section 6 of the report. A brief report on progress with implementation is as follows:-

1. **The NHSCR should establish, maintain and project, a clear purpose, role and function with respect to key service users, and governance of its operations.** Pending the establishment of the Governance Board, this recommendation has not been carried forward. The views of the Board on how this should be done would be welcome.
2. **The NHSCR should maintain robust internal quality assurance procedures consistent with the law and best practice, and develop a strategy for external quality assurance.** Because of the number of other pre-occupations, the quality assurance checking has not yet been formalised, although the delivery of a high quality service has continued. A draft will be put to a future meeting of the Governance Board.
3. **The NHSCR, with its host organisation, should establish governance arrangements that will include representation from key service users and offer strategic advice on its external relations, governance and effective policy developments.** The establishment of the Governance Board implements this recommendation.
4. **The NHSCR should continue to explore opportunities with its key service users to maximise its use for health, population and research purposes while upholding its reputation and avoiding any diversion from its prime purpose.** This recommendation underlies paper NHSCR GB 5/05 (item 6 on the agenda).
5. **The NHSCR, with the GROS, should track closely the proposals for change in residency and population registration, and plan to enhance the NHSCR's ability to support population enumeration and NHS entitlement for those residents in Scotland who were not born in the UK.** This recommendation underlies paper NHSCR GB 4/05 (item 5 on the agenda).
6. **The NHSCR should examine the cost effectiveness of creating a backup to its paper resources, proportionate to the risk of destruction of vital archive material and irreplaceable information.** Because of other pressures, this recommendation has not yet been

pursued. A paper will be put to a future meeting of the Governance Board.

7. The NHSCR should remain part of GROS and a decision on its future location should be deferred until there is a clear view on the impact that the population register proposals would have on the future work of the NHSCR. The GROS would therefore ensure the stewardship of the NHSCR and the implications of the recommendations of this report. GROS is happy to continue its stewardship of the NHSCR. Contrary to the recommendation, Ministers decided that the location decision need not be deferred until the population register picture was clear (see agenda item 4).

Recommendation

3. The views of the Governance Board, particularly on how Recommendation 1 should be implemented, are invited.

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