

# **“Rebalancing” Medicines Legislation and Pharmacy Regulation**

## **Programme Board Terms of Reference**

The Programme Board for Rebalancing Medicines Legislation and Pharmacy Regulation will examine the respective scope of legislation and regulation, and the interface between them, with a view to ensuring these are optimally designed to provide safety for users of pharmacy services, while facilitating a systematic approach to quality in pharmacy and responsible development of practice and innovation, whilst reducing the burden of unnecessary and inflexible regulations.

### **Role of the Programme Board**

The Board’s role is

1. to advise Ministers and the Devolved Administrations on policy within these Terms of Reference and
2. to oversee implementation of policy outcomes agreed by Ministers and the Devolved Administrations.

### **Areas of work**

1. The Programme will
  - (i) build on and propose amendments to legislation, as required, to deliver a modern approach to regulation which maintains patient and public safety, whilst supporting professional and quality systems development, including learning from dispensing errors made in registered pharmacies
  - (ii) examine the legislative and regulatory framework for pharmacy premises to make recommendations that strengthen the professional regulatory framework as required, with a view to mitigating identified risks while ensuring
    - a. the effectiveness of components of the system which support patient safety, such as the role of superintendent and the responsible pharmacist
    - b. the legislative and regulatory framework for pharmacy premises supports the development and maintenance of a quality systems approach to pharmacy practice
  - (iii) build on these foundations to address in parallel medicines and professional regulatory matters (e.g. supervision), which are considered to restrict full use of the skills of registered pharmacists and registered pharmacy technicians, impede the deployment of modern technologies and put disproportionate or unnecessary obstacles in the way of new models of service delivery by and/or involving pharmacy
  - (iv) set out the principles underlying policy recommendations about the future scope of pharmacy regulation, ensuring that these are in line with the principles of good regulation.
2. The Programme Board will also
  - (i) establish a framework for clear governance for all aspects of the work programme to ensure that outcomes agreed by Ministers and the Devolved Administrations are achieved

- (ii) take account, as appropriate, of interdependent work, including the wider Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority (MHRA) review of penalties and sanctions; the work programme of the pharmacy regulators, ongoing implementation of *Enabling Excellence*, the Law Commissions' review of the legal framework for professional regulation and other relevant work programmes
- (iii) identify influencing factors in prioritising elements of the programme for early progress to legislation, taking account of the needs of England, Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland
- (iv) bring forward proposals on areas of legislation that require change in order to support achievement of the aim of the programme and
- (v) oversee the management of risks which could threaten the objectives of the programme.

## **Ways of Working**

The Programme Board will be chaired by Ken Jarrold, who has been appointed by Ministers. The Secretariat will be provided by the Department of Health. The Board will focus on planning, prioritising, co-ordination and ensuring the necessary work is progressed with members undertaking detailed thinking and activity to ensure the programme's objectives are achieved.

## **Membership**

Membership of the board includes officials from the four governments, professional and regulatory representatives and a range of stakeholder interests. A Partners Forum will also be established to contribute to the work programme, as appropriate. The engagement process adopted by the Board will ensure the views of the public and patients, amongst others, are sought and considered effectively.

## **Work programme and meeting arrangements**

To be agreed at the first meeting.

## **Reporting Arrangements**

The Chairman will report to Ministers on a regular basis, setting out key issues discussed by the Programme Board, making Ministers aware of any differences of opinion within the Board and action to progress the work programme.

Group members will be expected to be conduits of information for the constituents and groups they represent.