

Communications Committee – Wednesday, 24 October 2007

Press Coverage Report

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

Since the last Communications Committee, the Communications Manager has issued 7 general press releases on a range of issues including consultations on standards of conduct, performance and ethics and confidentiality, new council members, CPD audits, annual reports and the grandparenting report and has issued news releases and written articles for a range of professional journals on renewals, CPD, consultations, grandparenting and FTP cases.

The Communications Officer continues to issue weekly media alerts highlighting forthcoming Fitness to Practise Hearings and has issued 19 press releases on professionals who have been struck off or suspended.

Coverage is monitored on a daily basis and the attached reports detail the coverage that has been received each month from June 2007 up to and including September 2007.

Decision

This paper is for information only. No decision is required.

Background information

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

None

Appendices

Press coverage reports for each month from June 2007 up to and including September 2007

Date of paper

24 October 2007

HPC monthly coverage report

The following coverage appeared between the 1 and 30 June 2007

Fitness to Practise

Date	Publication/ Website	Title of article	Summary
06/06/07	CEN News	Magistrates say no to bail for 99 hoaxer	Nuisance caller Kay Cousins will stay in jail for breaking an anti-social Behaviour Order
13/06/07	East Anglian Daily Times	Nuisance 999 calls 'were a cry for help'	A former ambulance worker who was given an ASBO for making nuisance calls said it was a 'cry for help'
13/06/07	CEN News	Judge releases hoax 999 caller	Hoax caller Kay Cousins has been released from prison to see a psychiatrist
28/06/07	The Argus	Seriously ill woman told to ring on-call GP	Lance Popplewell who failed to diagnose ...a woman who later needed surgery has been allowed to continue to work by his professional body

Professional Bodies

Date	Publication	Title of article
June 2007	The Bulletin (S<)	Karen Bryan joins HPC Council
June 2007	The Bulletin (S<)	HPC Registration renewal starts soon
June 2007	OT News	HPC increases registration fee
June 2007	Parallel Vision (Orthoptists)	Don't forget to pay and sign!
June 2007	Podiatry Now	Keynote Speaker – Dr Anna van der Gaag
June 2007	Podiatry Now	Motions regarding protection of title
Summer 2007	Journal of Podiatric Medicine	Statutory regulation, rule by law, rule by Council, rule by Committee
Summer 2007	Journal of Podiatric Medicine	HPC Reports (press releases)

HPC monthly coverage report

The following coverage appeared between the 1 and 31 July 2007

National Coverage

Date	Publication/ Website	Title of article	Summary
10/07/07	Daily Mirror	Watchdog check on practitioners	If you need an appointment with a chiropodist, physiotherapist or other health practitioner, you can now check in an instant to see if they are registered

Fitness to Practise

Date	Publication/ Website	Title of article	Summary
05/07/07	Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph	Killer father is struck off	A hospital radiographer from Irchester who murdered his three-year-old in a revenge attack sparked by his wife's affair has been struck off
16/07/07	The Northern Echo	12-month ban for therapist who visited sex website	An occupational therapist has been suspended for a year after he used a work computer to visit sexually explicit websites
19/07/07	Comet Biggleswade Edition	Paramedic still banned	A paramedic whose registration was suspended by his professional body after he admitted forging prescriptions has had his suspension extended by 12 months

Other coverage

Date	Publication/ Website	Title of article	Summary
08/07/07	Wales on Sunday	Clarification	An apology for referring to Gillian McKeith as a 'telly dietitian'.

Professional Bodies

Date	Publication	Title of article
Spring 2007	AT Newsbriefing	HPC to regulate counsellors, health psychologists and psychotherapists
July 2007	Podiatry Now	HPC consultation on Standards of conduct, performance and ethics

July 2007	Synergy News	Radiographer suspended after failure to prove competency
July/August 2007	Chiropody Review	Standards of conduct, performance and ethics: your duties as a registrant
July 2007	Bulletin	HPC launches standards and ethics consultations
July 2007	Bulletin	HPC Registration renewal begins
Summer 2007	S&L Therapy in Practice	HPC appointment

HPC monthly coverage report

The following coverage appeared between the 1 and 31 August 2007

Fitness to Practise

Date	Publication/ Website	Title of article	Summary
02/08/07	Tameside Advertiser	Therapist suspended for third year	Shirley Fogarty, OT. A therapist who was suspended after crying in front of a 'vulnerable' patient has been banned from working for a third year.
04/08/07	Cambridge Evening News	Blood money	Alethea Foster, CH. Knife frenzy wife pays husband's mistress £30,000. A spurned wife who stabbed her love rival 17 times.
06/08/07	BBC News Online	Suspended therapist still working	Derek Gale, AT. A therapist suspended after claims he encouraged clients to take drugs is exploiting a legal loophole to continue practising.
06/08/07	The Times	Couples therapist who tells clients to strip uses loophole to cheat ban	Derek Gale, AT. A psychotherapist accused of encouraging his patients to take illegal drugs and join nude workshops is continuing to practise despite being suspended.
07/08/07	Wolverhampton Express and Star	Drugs claim therapist in loophole row	Derek Gale, AT. A psychotherapist suspended following claims he encouraged clients to take drugs is exploiting a legal loophole to continue practising.
07/08/07	Shropshire Star	Therapist exploits legal loophole	Derek Gale, AT. A psychotherapist suspended following claims he encouraged clients to take drugs is exploiting a legal loophole to continue practising.
07/08/07	Ilford Recorder	My hell with naked therapist	Derek Gale, AT. A woman has told of her escape from the clutches of a therapist accused of encouraging his patients to smoke cannabis and attend nude holidays with him.
07/08/07	Epping Forest Guardian	Suspended therapist continuing to practise	Derek Gale, AT. A therapist suspended for being a 'significant risk of harm to clients' is continuing to practise at his

			Loughton centre.
14/08/07	Norwich Evening News	Hospital worker suspended for cash theft	A hospital worker who helped surgeons in the operating theatre has been suspended after he was convicted of stealing money from Norfolk Hospital.

Other coverage

Date	Publication/ Website	Title of article	Summary
21/08/07	Bella Magazine	Are they qualified?	Article about the importance of checking your practitioner is registered.

Professional Bodies

Date	Publication	Title of article
August 2007	Bulletin	HPC registration renewal underway
August 2007	Synergy News	Convicted radiographer struck off
August 2007	Dietetics Today	Guidance on confidentiality and Standards of
August/Sept 2007	Operating Theatre Journal	Consultation about standards of conduct, performance and ethics.

HPC monthly coverage report

The following coverage appeared between the 1 and 30 September 2007

Fitness to Practise

Date	Publication/ Website	Title of article	Summary
04.09.07	IC Wales	Scientist struck off over child porn offences	David Lawton, BMS. A senior biomedical scientist has been struck off after he was ordered to register as a sex offender for five years.
14.09.07	Scunthorpe Telegraph	Behaviour cost paramedic job	Arthur Page, PA. A paramedic who treated a woman patient when she was topless....has been struck off by his professional body.
15.09.07	Peterborough Today	Suspended medic must retake exams	Glenn Carrington, PA. A city man has been suspended from working as a paramedic after his professional body found he lacked competence.
17.09.07	Gloucester Citizen	Paramedic took gas to relieve pain on the job	John Worthington, PA. A paramedic who gave himself pain-relieving gas while at work has been cautioned by his professional body.
21.09.07	Daily Mail	Exposed: Therapist using loophole to sexually exploit his clients	Derek Gale, AT. He urges clients to strip naked....this banned 'therapist' is using a legal loophole to carry on exploiting vulnerable women.
21.09.07	Aldershot News	Paramedic 'sent pants to female colleague'	Alastair Richards, PA. A paramedic who sent obscene text messages and a pair of underpants to a colleague has been suspended.
27.09.07	Dunmow and Waldon Observer	Hospital worker struck off after wife assault and drugs theft	Richard Fitch, ODP. A health professional who assaulted his wife and stole drugs from the hospital where he worked has been struck off.

Professional Bodies

Date	Publication	Title of article
September – October 07	The Operating Theatre	ODP suspended for stealing drugs

	Journal	
September 07	Podiatry Now	Review of Health Regulation
September 07	Podiatry Now	HPC welcomes new Council members
September 07	Synergy News	Struck off for self-injecting Midazolam