

Public consultation on the Professional Standards Authority's draft strategic plan for 2023-26

Royal Pharmaceutical Society response

Consultation questions

About you

To help us understand who is responding to our consultation, it would be helpful to find out more about you.

1. How would you describe your organisation (or your own role if more relevant)?

- Member of the public
- Health or care statutory regulator
- Accredited Register
- Other health or care body
- Patient representative body
- Registrant of a health or care statutory body
- Accredited Register practitioner
- Professional association
- NHS
- Other health or care provider
- Government Department or Non-Departmental Public Body or Agency
- Local Government
- Non-Governmental organisation
- Other, please specify

2. Please provide the name of your organisation.

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3. Are you content for us to use your comments in any published reports? If so, are you happy for us to include your name and, if relevant, your organisation?

Yes

The context for our strategy

4. Are there any factors we should consider in addition to those we have identified in the strategic plan that will affect the regulatory landscape in the next three years?

The three aims of the strategic plan appear sufficient to cover all aspects of the regulatory landscape in the next 3 years.

- to protect the public by delivering highly effective oversight of regulation and registration
- to make regulation and registration better and fairer

- to promote and support safer care for all

5. **Which of the four themes in *Safer Care for All* do you think are most important for us to focus on?**

- **Tackling inequalities;**
- **Regulating for new risks;**
- **Facing up to the workforce crisis; and**
- **Accountability, fear and public safety**

All four of these themes are important. From a professional perspective, the most critical theme is facing up to the workforce crisis. Without the appropriate workforce, patients and the public will not receive the care they need.

6. **Are there any recommendations and commitments in [Safer care for all](#) that you think we should prioritise for action? You can find these [here](#). Please indicate which you think are the top three priorities for us and others to work on in the immediate term.**

Again, all of these recommendations and commitments are important. One that is of particular interest to the pharmacy profession is number 10 - *There is a clear process to guide the development of new health and care roles including the scope and purpose of the role, and the process for deciding on the level of assurance required.* There is much change within the pharmacy profession, with pharmacy students graduating as prescribers from 2026, so this recommendation is of particular importance to us.

7. **Are there other activities not included in the draft Strategic Plan that you think the Authority should prioritise in the period 2023-26?**

No, we think the draft strategic plan covers all relevant activities. We welcome the focus on EDI as within the pharmacy profession we are already progressing work in this area.

Our vision and mission

8. **Do you agree that our vision (*safer care for all through high standards of competence and conduct in health and social care professionals*) is appropriate for the work of the Authority? Please explain your response.**

Yes, we agree with this vision. However, the standards set should facilitate and enable innovation within professional practice.

9. **Do you agree that our mission (to protect patients, service users and the public by improving the regulation and registration of health and social care professionals) is appropriate for the work of the Authority? Please explain your response.**

Yes, we believe that this is appropriate work for the Authority. We would encourage more engagement with patients, service users and the public in the development of regulatory requirements.

Our strategic aims

10. **Do you agree with our proposed Strategic Aim 1: *To protect the public by delivering highly effective oversight of regulation and registration*; and how we plan to deliver this aim and monitor progress? Please explain your response.**

Yes, we agree with this aim and delivery plan

11. **Do you agree with our proposed Strategic Aim 2: *To make regulation and registration better and fairer*; and how we plan to deliver this aim and monitor progress? Please explain your response.**

Yes, we agree with this aim and delivery plan

12. **Do you agree with our proposed Strategic Aim 3: *To promote and support safer care for all*; and how we plan to deliver this aim and monitor progress? Please explain your response.**

Yes, we agree with this aim and delivery plan

Our future role

13. **How do you think the role of the Authority should evolve in the future, particularly in the context of the reform of professional regulation in health and social care?**

The Authority will need to be more flexible in its approach as professional practice evolves with the changing landscape and patient and public demands. This will include recognising the role of digital health and technologies to support patient care and ensuring professionals are competent to use such technologies and interpret results

Impact

14. **Please set out any impacts that the proposals set out in the draft Strategic Plan would be likely to have on you and/or your organisation, or considerations that we should take into account when assessing the impact of the proposals.**

15. **Are there any aspects of these proposals that you feel could result in differential treatment of, or impact on, groups or individuals based on the following characteristics as defined under the Equality Act 2010:**

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief

- **Sex**
- **Sexual orientation**
- **Other (please specify)**

If you have responded 'yes' to any of the above, please explain why and what could be done to change this.