

Core Competency Framework Working Group - Report

March 2021

Executive summary

The Competency Framework Working Group (CFWG) was tasked by the Faculty of Clinical Informatics (FCI) Council to produce an outline plan, highlighting key areas for the Council to consider in taking the Competency Framework (CF) forwards. The CFWG would ensure the main deliverables are clear, key stakeholders and resource requirements are identified and recommendations prioritised alongside a likely timescale. Plans must be consistent with the FCI's [Charitable Objects](#) and Business Plan.

The CFWG developed its advice by considering the future uses and development of the CF from seven strand headings (framed as questions – see below). The WG considered that each of these strands provided a different perspective by which to analyse the CF, ensuring the recommendations were consistent with FCI Member priorities, as identified through the [FCI Membership survey](#) of February 2020, the FCI's multi-professional, multi-sector Membership and a four-nations perspective.

-  1 – How can the CF support the FCI's business plan and charitable objects?
-  2 – How can we use the CF as a route to Membership and Fellowship of the faculty?
-  3 – How can we collaborate to take clinical informatics forward across the UK?
-  4 – How can we learn from and collaborate with the international clinical informatics community?
-  5 – How can we use the CF to accredit courses and course providers?
-  6 – How do we embed clinical informatics into core health and care training consistent with national and international standards?
-  7 – How can we use the CF to support the professionalisation of the clinical informatics workforce?

The CFWG report describes 18 recommendations to take the CF forward. The recommendations have been prioritised and grouped into workstreams, with clear lines of accountability, success criteria and actions required for delivery, tabulated for each recommendation against the FCI's current governance structures.

The Workstreams (W1 – W4) and high-level description of recommendations

Workstream	Rec. no.	Recommendation overview	Proposed owner
W1	A1	Communication and reporting channels	FCI Exec and Business Manager reporting to Trustee Board
	A2	Income generation	
	A3	Engagement strategy	
	A5	Intellectual property rights	
	B1	Development of the CF	FCI Exec and Business Manager reporting to Council
W2	B2	Applications for FCI Membership	Membership SC reporting to Council
	C1	International FCI Members	
W3	A4	Subject matter experts	Education and Standards SC reporting to Council
	B3	Reviewing suitability of educational programmes	
	B4	Evidencing competencies	
	B5	Aligning the CF to other frameworks	
	B6	CI in health and care professional training programmes	
	D1	Database of educational programmes	
	D2	Curriculum design	
	D3	Mapping CF to Univ. Newcastle's Bloom's Taxonomy matrix	
W4	B7	Professional pathways	Professionalisation SC reporting to Council
	B8	Job descriptions and person specifications	
	C2	Links with other international digital health thought leaders	

The CFWG made two further important recommendations:

- Firstly, that a new Professionalism Standing Committee (SC), reporting to Council should take responsibility for workstream 4 and overall responsibility for the implementation aspects of this report.
- Secondly, that the Professionalism SC establish a Professional Competencies Programme to take forward the development of the CF and ensure it remains a distinctive and recognisable sphere of activity for the FCI in the longer term.

The full CFWG report provides more detailed information on the recommendations and workstreams, with case reports and examples in the 'Key considerations and case studies' section.