GENERAL OSTEOPATHIC COUNCIL Business Plan April 2017-March 2018

Monitoring at 30 September 2017

GOsC BUSINESS PLAN 2017-2018

The General Osteopathic Council has agreed a corporate plan for 2016-2019 which commits to achieving the three strategic objectives set out below, over the three year period.

Strategic Objectives

- 1. To promote public and patient safety through patient-centred, proportionate, targeted and effective regulatory activity
- 2. To encourage and facilitate continuous improvement in the quality of osteopathic healthcare
- 3. To use our resources efficiently and effectively, while adapting and responding to change in the external environment.

This document, sets out progress against the Business Plan 2017-2018.

Legend

Status ● On track ● Minor delay ● Cancelled/postponed

Change ↑ Positive ▶ Negative

1. To promote patient and public safety through patient-centred, proportionate, targeted and effective regulatory activity

1.1 Continuing professional development						
Goal: to ensure that osteopaths keep their knowledg	e and skills up to da	ate, and continu	ally enhan	ce and impr	ove their practice	
Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments	
Implement governance structures to ensure that Council has appropriate oversight and scrutiny mechanisms of implementation of CPD scheme.	Professional Standards	All year			SMT Task Group continues to meet every three weeks to oversee project planning. Meeting of CPD Partnership Group took place on 4 July 2017. Regular reports are provided to PAC and to Council.	
Support osteopaths to undertake aspects of the new CPD scheme.	Professional Standards Communications	All year	•		Webinars are ongoing to support small groups of osteopaths to undertake objective activities. Supported by communications and engagement plan.	
Establish strategy for engaging osteopaths who have not yet prepared to explore the new CPD scheme.	Professional Standards Communications	March 2018				
Review, enhance and update, as appropriate, resources for CPD (to include any activity we undertake that supports implementation of standards).	Professional Standards	All year			Participants in webinars have developed new examples for sharing with osteopaths and the website continues to be updated with resources.	
Update and publish learning resources for Peer Discussion Review.	Professional Standards	September 2017			Updated peer discussion review guidelines incorporated more guidance about the peer discussion review have been published. Further learning resources will be developed as	

Consult on amended CPD rules, analyse consultation and agree new CPD Rules.	Professional Standards Communications	July 2017 to March 2018	•	part of plans to upskill people in other organisations to support peer discusson review in 2018. Consultation on updated CPD rules open until 16 November 2017.
Begin second year evaluation of changes in patterns of CPD (taking into account work of Early Adopters and the profession more broadly), analyse and publish evaluation	Professional Standards	October 2017 to March 2018		Second year evaluation survey to be launched from November to 21 January 2018.
Conduct a programme of communications and engagement with osteopaths, osteopathic representative organisations, local osteopathic groups, and education providers to support and promote the implementation of a new CPD scheme for osteopaths.	Communications Professional Standards	All year		One year 'countdown' plan in development. Discussion at CPD Partnership Board: 4 July 2017. New feature 'Countdown to new CPD' in June/July the osteopath. CPD feature in monthly news ebulletins, updates to CPD site including case studies from Early Adopters.
Continue evaluation, development and testing of an interactive, web-based infrastructure to support the new CPD scheme.	Communications Registration and Resources	All year		Work ongoing with web hosting company
Audit 20% of CPD Annual Summary Forms and 2% of CPD folders to ensure registrants are meeting current standards and to identify good practice and areas for improvement.	Registration and Resources	All year		Audit activity ongoing.

1.2 Education and training						
Goal: to ensure that osteopathic education is of high quality and continues to evolve to reflect changes in education and healthcare						
Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments	
Analyse potential impact of the Thematic Review on	Professional	May 2017			Facilitated session with report	
Boundaries and feeding this in to the Quality	Standards				author and OEIs at the meeting	
Assurance Review.					on 19 June 2017. Report now	

Analyse potential impact of publication of conditions and requirements and removal of RQ dates to support more risk based approach to QA.	Professional Standards	May 2017	•	published. Further literature review commissioned in partnership with the GCC. Draft consultation document has been produced for consideration by PAC in October and Council
Publish specific proposals for the QA review (in conjunction with QA partner).	Professional Standards	September 2017		in 2018. Draft proposals were considered by PAC in October 2017 and will be considered by Council in January 2018.
Complete analysis and publish new Quality Assurance Guidance and begin implementation of process.	Professional Standards	March 2018		Due to the slight delay in the publication of proposals, it is anticipated that this will slip to May Council for publication.
Scope need for additional guidance for students following results of boundaries literature review and thematic review on boundaries with particular reference to student and tutor and student and student relations and also the OPS review.	Professional Standards	December 2017		Literature review is in process of being commissioned.
Identify and share areas of good practice from Annual Reports in teaching, learning and assessment.	Professional Standards	June 2017		The good practice seminar this year, facilitated by Julie Stone, focussed on teaching, learning and assessment in boundaries.
Continue to monitor and enhance the quality of osteopathic education by: ensuring appraisal and training of Education Visitors; undertaking periodic quality assurance reviews; agreeing changes to Annual Reports; collecting and analysing data and disseminating findings, feedback and good practice to the sector; monitoring action plans, conditions and requirements; monitoring course closure plans.	Professional Standards	All year		Annual reports were sent out in September 2017 and are due back in December 2017. RQ Visits are taking place for two institutions in Octgober 2018. RQ Specifications have been agreed and Visitors appointed for reviews taking place in April 2018. The Committee has also

				considered other information reported under general conditions and from other sources, monitored action plans, conditions and other requirements and has taken appropriate action. Visitor appraisals are scheduled for December 2017 at present. Training is due to take place in July 2018 to allow time for the publication of the new OPS and the quality assurance framework.
Work with OEIs to continue to develop patient involvement in the delivery of osteopathic education.	Professional Standards Communications	All year	•	Ongoing – it is anticipated that this will form part of a thematic review in the next year, planning for which will commence shortly.
Continue to promote professionalism within OEIs, and among students and faculty.	Professional Standards Communications	All year		Ongoing
Conduct annual programme of on-campus GOsC presentations to osteopathic students to support training outcomes, embed understanding of the role of the GOsC, and assist transition into practice.	Professional Standards Communications Registration	All year	•	Ongoing
Further develop targeted communications for osteopathic students to support transition into practice, including support for the Osteopathic Development Group's mentoring pilot.	Communications Chief Executive	All year		ODG mentoring programme currently being piloted and will be evaluated in early 2018.
Identify any external issues relating to education and training that impact on current objectives and amend plans accordingly.	Professional Standards	All year		

Goal: to ensure patient safety by taking effective, time	nely and proporti	onate action on co	omplaints a	bout osteop	aths
Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments
Manage the complaints caseload in an efficient, effective, fair and timely way seeking to achieve a target of 12 months for the majority of fitness to practise complaints to reach a hearing.	Regulation	All year			Ongoing
Continue to monitor and further develop, the Quality Assurance Framework, including internal/external audits and peer review of decision making.	Regulation	All year	•		An external audit of eight PCC final hearings where no finding of UPC was made was undertaken over July and August, with the final report provided to GOsC on 20 September 2017. The final conclusions and recommendations are in the process of being reviewed.
Implement new data collection on complainants and registrants.	Regulation	All year			J
Establish and hold regular determination review group meetings (with inter regulatory participation) to review final outcomes from PCC decisions	Regulation	April 2017	•		The inaugural meeting of the DRG took place on 9 May 2017. Attendees included two senior lawyers from the General Optical Council and a senior manager from the Care Quality Commission. A further DRG meeting is scheduled for 15 November 2017.
Communicate case learning points, PSA advice, relevant case law and regulatory developments to GOsC Committee members (and arrange training where necessary).	Regulation	All year	•		We have received four learning points (LP) letters from the PSA since January 2017. In part one of these LP letters prompted us

			to organise a half-day Chair training for 29 September 2017 where the agenda covered competencies relating to chairs, including effective time management, control of a hearing and dealing with difficult counsel. Three other LP letters have related to PII cases. A committee circular sent in July to all panellists and legal assessors included detailed feedback on one of these LP letters.
Implement any changes to procedures recommended by the PSA's initial stages audit, the Performance Review or other source.	Regulation	All year	
Develop and implement Standard Case Directions for all cases referred to PCC.	Regulation	September 2017	A paper proposing the introduction of standard case management directions for the progression of cases from referral by an Investigating Committee to a final hearing before a Professional Conduct Committee is due to be presented to the Policy Advisory Committee on 10 October 2017.
Review and consult on changes to the Rule 8 procedure and Practice Note.	Regulation and Communications	July 2017	An eight week consultation on the revised Rule 8 Practice Note on consensual disposal took place in July and August. We

Develop and consult on a Rule 19 procedure and Practice Note.	Regulation and Communications	January 2018	•	Ψ	are due to present a paper on this, together with the responses we received, to Council in November. Planned for consideration at March or June 2018 PAC.
Review the Investigating Committee decision making guidance including developing separate guidance for the IC on issuing advice.	Regulation	July 2017			An extensive review of the IC decision making guidance has been undertaken. At the Investigating Committee allmember training took place on 3 July 2017, the agenda included a structured discussion and feedback session on the review A paper on the draft IC decision making guidance is due to be considered at the Policy Advisory Committee meeting on 10 October 2017
Provide training as required to fitness to practise panellists, including supporting the induction and integration of new members through training in addition to separate annual training days for IC and PCC/HC members.	Regulation	All year			Induction training for new committee members took place on 21 March 2017. The agenda included a well received session on equality and diversity training. IC annual training day took place on 3 July 2017. The annual PCC training day is scheduled for 27 November 2017.
Continue to explore options and develop procedures and policies which improve and modernise our processes which do not require changes to the Osteopaths Act.	Regulation	All year	•		

Evaluate the effectiveness of the existing PCC bank of conditions and consult on changes where appropriate.	Regulation	October 2017	•	We no longer consider this to be a priority for this year and will consider whether to include in the 2018-19 Business Plan
Identify any external issues relating to fitness to practise that impact on current objectives and amend plans accordingly.	Regulation	All year		Ongoing

1.4 Registration

Goal: to ensure that only those eligible to do so practise as osteopaths in the UK and to increase understanding, awareness and use of the register

register					
Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments
Ensure compliance with the Osteopaths Act 1993 and the underpinning Registration Rules and identify enhancements to existing registration processes.	Registration and Resources Regulation	All year			Ongoing
Ensure the quality of registration assessments, including the training and appraisal of GOsC registration assessors and return to practice reviewers, moderation meeting facilitation and regular communications and evaluation.	Professional Standards, Registration and Resources	All year	•		Registration assessor appraisals took place in July. Registration assessments on-going.
Seek feedback from those using or applying our registration processes (including registrants, registration applicants and registration assessors) in order to better understand their experiences and improve our registration system.	Registration and Resources Communications	All year			Feedback from new graduates about the registration process being collected monthly, starting in July 2017. Feedback from registration assessors collected about time commitment involved in assessment processes.
Ensure compliance with the amended EU Directive 2013/55/EU, identifying enhancements to existing registration processes, if needed.	Registration and Resources	All year			Ongoing
Continue to establish a network of contacts with peers in other regulatory bodies and similar	Registration and Resources	All year			Inter-regulatory forum established. First meeting held

organisations to share experiences and best practice.			September 2017.
Continue to encourage osteopaths to promote awareness of their registered status and the GOsC Register – monitoring levels of registrant take-up.	Communications	All year	Targeted communications to osteopaths to promote use of Registration Marks, as a result of ongoing audit of practice websites.
Seek to develop greater awareness of the Register and the GOsC's regulatory role within the wider healthcare community.	Communications	All year	Member of planning Committee for Annual Regulation Conference: 30 October. Jointly hosting parallel session with the GDC on values research.
Undertake literature review about mutual recognition in other sectors.	Professional Standards	September 2017	Paper considered by PAC 10 October 2017.
Undertake engagement with relevant stakeholders and develop of proposals for changes to registration assessments if required.	Professional Standards	March 2018	Paper considered by PAC 10 October 2017.
Finalise and implement proposals for consultation on changes to registration assessment charges for overseas applicants	Registration and Resources and Professional Standards	September 2017 to March 2018	Proposals to PAC, October 2017 with paper on Council agenda, November 2017.
Investigate individuals identified or reported to GOsC as incorrectly describing themselves as osteopaths, write 'cease and desist' letters to them, and prosecute those who ignore such letters.	Regulation	All year	Ongoing
Monitor activity of individuals removed from the Register during 2016-17 and 2017-18, identified in accordance with procedures agreed with Registration Department (writing 'cease and desist' letters and prosecuting them as necessary, as described above).	Registration, Regulation	All year	Ongoing
Continue to develop links with European Competent Authorities to facilitate registration and information	Chief Executive Registration	All year	Contact ongoing with Portuguese authorities.

exchange.				
Identify any external issues relating to regulation	Professional	All year		
that impact on current objectives and amend plans	Standards			
accordingly.				

1.5 Patient involvement and engagement

Goal: to put patients, patient-centred regulation and patient-centred healthcare at the heart of our work

Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments
Assess all key GOsC policy development and processes at the outset to ascertain patient and public involvement requirements, and develop/implement an appropriate engagement plan.	Communications	All year	Status	Change	Ongoing
Continue to seek input to policy development and projects from the GOsC Patient Partnership Group, refreshing and promoting membership and keeping members informed and engaged.	Communications	All year			12 patients contributing to Values seminar: 11 July, recruited from GOsC Patient Group and from research consultancy. Opportunity to recruit new members to PPG at 11 July event.
Ensure adequate and appropriate patient/public input into the revised <i>Osteopathic Practice Standards</i> consultation.	Communications	All year			Patients have formed a quarter of the membership of the OPS Stakeholder Reference Group which has overseen the development of the document. Patient focus group took place in October 2017 The website summary of the long consultation document is designed to be accessible to patients and the public and the osteopaths.

Expand opportunity and options for patients, the public and other interested parties to input into GOsC work, including strengthening partnerships with patient representative groups across the UK.	Communications	All year	GOsC consultation on Hearings and Sanctions guidance. Patients contributing to CPD Partnership Board activity. Targeted communications to Healthwatch network, Scottish Health Councils, Welsh CHCs and the Northern Ireland Patient Client Council as part of OPS consultation planning.
Collaborate with other health regulators to increase the quality and scope of GOsC public engagement.	Communications	All year	We are working in partnership with the General Dental Council on recruitment of patients to inform the development of our values work. This has meant direct recruitment from the GDC patient panel as well as purposive recruitment.
Promote among osteopathic stakeholders the value of patient involvement in their own work and the GOsC's; encourage use of patient feedback to inform improvements in practice and training.	Communications	All year	The GOsC has piloted patient feedback webinars which have supported some osteopaths to explore patient feedback.

2. To encourage and facilitate continuous improvement in the quality of osteopathic healthcare

2.1 Standards and professionalism

Goal: to promote high standards of practice and professionalism in the osteopathic profession

Goal. to promote high standards of practice and prof			_		<u></u>
Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments
Continue to implement the communications and engagement strategy underpinning the project to revise and update the <i>Osteopathic Practice Standards</i> (OPS).	Communications Professional Standards	All year			Regular updates against the communication and engagement strategy are monitored and responded to by the Project Team.
Conduct an effective public consultation on the revised <i>Osteopathic Practice Standards</i> and associated guidance (e.g. consent, boundaries and managing patient information).	Communications Professional Standards	September 2017			The consultation is running from August to October 2017. The consultation uses a variety of methods including full consultation document, accessible and interactive website and a variety of face-to-face and online meetings.
Publish example learning resources to support implementation of the guidance.	Professional Standards	All year			Ongoing
Analyse consultation response, agree final OPS and Guidance, and consultation analysis for publication.	Professional Standards	January to March 2018			
Scope out communications and engagement programme to launch and promote new osteopathic practice standards to the profession and the public.	Communications Professional Standards	March 2018			
Continue to work with the Institute of Osteopathy and the Osteopathic Development Group on the implementation of the Patient Charter and Service Standards for the osteopathic profession.	Chief Executive Communications	All year			Approach to accreditation of service standards agreed nu ODG at September meeting. iO considering implementation process.

2.2 Capacity building Goal: to ensure that the osteopathic profession continues to develop its capacity to improve patient experience and high quality care

Country construction of the control			·		
Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments
Develop and deliver a communications programme to encourage awareness of and engagement in projects to support the development of the profession. Continue to provide support for Osteopathic Development Group projects including: Leadership – provide financial and administrative support for third year of osteopathic leadership	Communications Professional Standards Chief Executive	All year	Status	Change	Ongoing communications support provided to ODG in conjunction with iO. Leadership – Year 3 programme concluded in October 2017. Evaluation of whole programme underway.
 programme. Service Standards – work with the Institute of Osteopathy on the implementation of the Patient Charter and Service Standards. Mentoring – support the implementation of a pilot mentoring scheme. Advanced practice – support the implementation of recommendations resulting from completion of phase 1 of the ODG advanced practice project. Regional support/communities of practice – with 					Mentoring – pilot scheme commenced July 2017 with training workshop and webinar, due for evaluation early 2018. Advanced practice – working group focusing on developing competence framework for paediatrics. Regional support/communities of practice – updated guide published April 2017.
the Institute of Osteopathy, promote capacity building within local osteopathic groups to contribute to the development of the profession and the new CPD scheme. International – continue to support and promote the use of the new resources on international osteopathy developed by the ODG. PROMs – promote the work of NCOR on patient reported outcome measures and other reporting tools.					Launch of dedicated ODG newsletter – May 2017. International – maintenance of international website handed over to iO. PROMs – work ongoing to link with objective feedback activity in new CPD scheme.

Develop a sustainable strategy for fostering professional networks and learning communities that support professional development and minimise practitioner isolation.	Professional Standards Communications	March 2018	Collaborative work with iO, with targeted interviews planned with representatives from different communities of practice: local group, multidisciplinary practice and clinical interest group. Development of learning communities a factor in Countdown to new CPD implementation planning.
Work with the Council of Osteopathic Educational Institutions to support their proposals to develop the organisation to better meet the needs of the sector including develop mechanisms for bringing together faculty from different OEIs to identify challenges in the delivery of osteopathic education.	Professional Standards Chief Executive	March 2018	Funding proposal for COEI agreed by Council July 2017. Meeting planned with new COEI Chair during November 2017.
Work in partnership with organisations and networks across the osteopathic sector to identify and develop capacity to realise the benefits of the CPD scheme across the sector and for patients.	Professional Standards	All year	

2.3 Research, practice and regulation						
Goal: to use evidence from data collection, risk analy	sis and research to	inform the deve	elopment o	f osteopath	ic regulation and practice	
Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments	
Engage with the Professional Indemnity Insurance Providers and the professional association to review 2016 complaints/claims data; identify trends; agree action, and review/revise data collection and dissemination strategy for 2017.	Communications Regulation	All year			2016 report expanded to include demographic data and presented to PAC, October 2017.	
Continue to support the National Council of Osteopathic Research as a means to increase research awareness and research activity within the osteopathic profession.	Communications	All year			Ongoing	

Commission research on boundaries in osteopathic practice.	Professional Standards	July 2017	
Analyse data relating to individual registrants subject to complaints to identify ways to improve standards and reduce the risk of complaints.	Regulation Communications	July 2017	Initial activity completed and presented to PAC. Further activity may be combined with data collection (above).
Continue to develop work in relation to values of patients and practitioners, using co-production, to support effective decision making to support regulatory activities.	Professional Standards	All year	A patient and practitioner workshop is being held jointly with the GDC on 11 July 2017.

3. To use our resources efficiently and effectively, while adapting and responding to change in the external environment

3.1 Service quality and engagement							
Goal: to enhance the quality of service that we provide to patients and the public, registrants and our other stakeholders							
Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments		
Monitor revisions to the Welsh Language Act and implement potential new requirements as required.	Communications	All year			Welsh Language Scheme Annual Report considered by Council 18 July.		
Review feedback arising from GOsC stakeholder surveys in 2017-18, identifying and implementing improvements to operations and services, and adjusting GOsC communications and engagement mechanisms and strategies.	Communications	All year					
Continue implementation of GOsC three-year Communications and Engagement Strategy to ensure our communications are diverse, targeted, informative and effective – working with others to increase our impact wherever possible.	Communications	All year	•		Ongoing		
Ensure high quality consultation and engagement on policy and operational developments, including use	Communications	All year			Consultation on Hearings and Sanctions guidance (May 2017).		

of the GOsC Patient Partnership Group.			Consultations planned in July on Consensual disposal (Rule 8) and new CPD rules.
Ensure GOsC representation at appropriate healthcare events across the UK to promote awareness of osteopathic regulation, registration and practice standards, and foster partnerships.	Communications	All year	
 Continue to support regular engagement activities and events including: Meetings of the Regional Communications Network Meetings with osteopathic educational institutions Ongoing work with faculty in osteopathic educational institutions The work of the Osteopathic Development Group A programme of visits to local osteopathic groups A programme of visits to advanced practice osteopathic groups and CPD providers Assisting the development of networks of osteopaths Engagement around provision of resources and guidance and professional development 	Professional Standards Chief Executive Communications	All year	GOSC/OEI meeting held on 19 June 2017 and 9 October 2017. Regional meetings programme is underway. Meetings with faculty have been undertaken as part of the OPS consultation. Meetings have taken place with some CPD providers and advanced practice osteopathic groups. We are supporting growing networks of groups via the CPD learning resources, work books and tool kits.
Continue to provide high quality information to support registrants' engagement with the GOsC including through: • Publication of <i>the osteopath</i> magazine • Regular news e-bulletins and fitness to practise e-bulletins • Use of social media.	Communications Regulation	All year	April/May issue June/July issue of the osteopath, with refreshed design and dedicated 'Countdown to new CPD' feature April, May and June news ebulletins.

3.2 Economy, efficiency and effectiveness							
Goal: to operate efficient, economic and effective operational systems and processes							
Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments		
Implement the year two activities from the IT Strategy and work plan	Registration and Resources	All year	•		Actions arising from the IT audit are being implemented. Reported to Audit Committee in June 2017 and October 2017.		
Explore our methods of communication and identify where we can use different technologies to interact with applicants, registrants and other customers.	Registration and Resources	All year					
Continue to develop the Integra system to increase its functionality to suit fitness to practise case management requirements following the recent version upgrade.	Regulation and Registration and Resources	December 2017		•	Delayed due to staff changes.		
Identify opportunities for joint working with other regulators and provide advice to Council on governance of any joint activities.	Chief Executive	All year			Informal discussion taking place among regulators on joint working.		

3.3 Governance

Goal: to operate with high standards of corporate governance and respond effectively to changes in the external environment

Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments
Provide regular reports to Council on progress	Chief Executive	All year			Ongoing
against the business plan, and on financial, asset					
and risk management.					
Ensure that the GOsC continues to meet its duties	Chief Executive	All year			WLS report to Council July 2017
under the Equality Act and Welsh Language Act					
Engage with the PSA Performance Review process,	Chief Executive,	All year			2016-17 review completed and
through regular data reporting and acting on issues	Registration and				reported to Council July 2017
arising from the performance review process and	Resources,				and Audit Committee October
associated audits.	Regulation				2017.
Complete any new appointments to the governance	Chief Executive	All year			IC and PCC appointments due to

structure, including where necessary using the appointments procedure approved by PSA.			commence in autumn 2017.
Provide induction and ongoing training for new and existing Council members and other non-executives.	Chief Executive, Regulation	All year	Council training day 7 December IC training 3 July, PCC Chairs training 29 September.
Prepare an Annual Report on activities undertaken in year and submit to Parliament.	Chief Executive Registration and Resources Communications	June to September 2017	Annual Report presented to Council July 2017 and laid before both Houses of Parliament on 11 September 2017.
Continue to engage with the Department of Health and other regulators on the reform of healthcare professional legislation.	Chief Executive	All year	Ongoing
Manage any issues arising from transition to a registered charity	Chief Executive	All year	Ongoing