

Education Committee
15 June 2010
Public session
Code of Practice/Standard of Proficiency Update

<u>Classification</u>	Public
<u>Purpose</u>	To note
<u>Issues</u>	This paper provides an update on work that has been undertaken in relation to the revision of the Standard of Proficiency and Code of Practice.
<u>Financial & Resourcing Implications</u>	None
<u>Equality & Diversity Implications</u>	None
<u>Communications Implications</u>	An independent consultation exercise on the revised Code and Standard will take place in conjunction with our recently appointed consultants Hewell Taylor Freed & Associates in the latter half of 2010.
<u>Annexes</u>	None

Summary

1. This paper provides an update on work that has been undertaken in relation to the revision of the Standard of Proficiency and Code of Practice.

Background

2. Council is required by the Osteopaths Act 1993 (the Act) to:
 - a. Determine the Standard of Proficiency required for the competent and safe practice of osteopathy and publish a statement of that standard¹.
 - b. Publish a Code of Practice laying down the standards of conduct and practice expected of a registered osteopath and give guidance in relation to the practice of osteopathy².
3. The current Standard of Proficiency, *Standard 2000* (standard) was published in March 1999 and came into force in March 2000. The current Code of Practice (Code) was published and came into effect in May 2005. Both documents were recently revised within working parties established by Council. A consultation on the draft Standard of Proficiency (Standard), which is entitled Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS), took place from November 2008 – July 2009, with a consultation report produced in December 2009. The report was considered by Council at its meeting in January 2010. The revised Code has not been consulted on at this stage, although feedback from the profession was invited by the Council prior to its drafting.
4. Whilst developed separately, in January 2010, Council considered the relationship of these two documents and the proposal that they be published together in one document. Council agreed that there was value in having both the Code and Standard incorporated into a single document. This single document would then be made available for consultation.
5. At its last meeting, the Education Committee noted the progress made with the development of the revised Code / Standard. This paper provides an update of progress made since that meeting.

Discussion

6. As agreed by Council, work has been undertaken to produce a single document that incorporates the revised text from the draft Code and Standard. It is intended to present Council with options for how these documents can be combined and these will be circulated to both Council and Education Committee for comment prior to seeking formal approval at the Council meeting on 13 July 2010.
7. It was important to achieve harmony between all GOsC standards and one of the proposed versions will be based on the work undertaken to develop a Revalidation Standards and Evidence Framework. This framework aims to show the standards by which osteopaths will be assessed during revalidation and proposes four Domains for these standards to be grouped under, namely:
 - A. Communication and Patient Partnership
 - B. Knowledge, Skills and Performance
 - C. Safety and Quality in Practice

¹ Osteopaths Act 1993, section 13

² Osteopaths Act 1993, section 19

D. Professionalism

8. With the proposal to structure revalidation in this way, it seemed the sensible approach to adopt this structure for the revised Code and Standard. This would ensure consistency in all GOsC standards and make it clear to the profession and public about how revalidation standards could be mapped back to the overarching GOsC standards.
9. Work has also been undertaken on an alternative version for consideration, whereby the format follows that which was proposed in the first draft of the revised Code.

Consultation

10. In May 2010, a tender to appoint an independent consultant was advertised, based on the need to undertake extensive consultation on the new combined document. The tender incorporated valuable learning from the previous consultation exercise on the Osteopathic Practice Standards, in particular, the need to reach out to all our stakeholders.
11. In line with our Procurement Principles, a tender appointment panel was convened consisting of:
 - a. Professor Ian Hughes (representing the Standard and lay perspectives)
 - b. Mr Brian McKenna (representing the osteopath perspective)
 - c. Ms Velia Soames (representing the Executive and Code perspectives)
12. Two tender proposals were received and both teams were invited for interview. Following the interview, the panel agreed the appointment of Hewell, Taylor, Freed & Associates and the tender proposal is available on request.

Legal advice

13. The Chair of the Professional Conduct Committee has identified an issue to be clarified by legal advice about the interaction of our fitness to practise procedures and the combining of the Code and Standard. This was presented to the Council in April 2010. We will outline this issue in full along with legal advice to Council on 13 July 2010. We will ensure that the Council paper is circulated to Education Committee members for information.

Recommendation

14. To note the progress made in this project and to feedback on revised versions when circulated.