

**Education Committee**  
**16 September 2010**  
**Public session**  
**EDUCATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

**Classification**            Public

**Purpose**                    For Decision

**Issues**                    None

**Financial &  
Resourcing  
Implications**            None

**Equality & Diversity  
Implications**            None

**Communications  
Implications**            None

**Annexes**

## **GOsC Education Committee**

### **Annual Report to the Council on activities in 2009-2010**

The Education Committee met four times during the year under review – in June, September and December 2009, and March 2010. This report summarises the achievements of the Committee and includes decisions taken and actions recommended. Full minutes of all the meetings have already been reported to the Council.

This report also incorporates the work of Education Committee working groups and the Revalidation Standards and Assessment Group comprising Education Committee members.

### **Standard of Proficiency**

A draft Osteopathic Practice Standards document (Standards of Proficiency) was developed by a small Working Group comprising osteopaths and lay people during 2009. The aim was to revise the document to ensure that it was fit for purpose in the current healthcare environment. The document was published for consultation in March 2009 and the consultation concluded in June 2009. Actions included:-

- Presentation of consultation at 6 regional consultation meetings.
- Analysis of responses to consultation and publication of short summary.
- Recommendation to Council that in light of the consultation findings the draft Code and Osteopathic Practice Standards should be brought together into one document.
- Development of domains to frame standards and linkage with developing revalidation work.

### **Quality Assurance**

During the course of the year under review, whilst undertaking several major projects, the Committee continued in its key role of 'promoting high standards of education and training in osteopathy and keeping the provision made for that education and training under review'<sup>1</sup>. Actions included:-

- Commencement of preliminary review of quality assurance to ensure processes are fit for purpose.

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<sup>1</sup> See section 11(1) Osteopaths Act 1993

- Agreement to purpose of quality assurance including explicit incorporation of patient safety and patient care as the outcome to underpin QA preliminary review.
- All Annual Reports independently analysed for the first time by the QAA and feedback provided to the Osteopathic Educational Institutions (OEIs).
- Formal process developed for consideration of evidence submitted to fulfil RQ conditions to make this process consistent and transparent.
- 2 x initial Masters qualifications considered.
- 5 x RQ renewals considered.
- Agreement to discontinue Lay Observers to the decision making process as sufficient other mechanisms in place to ensure independence and impartiality.

### **Student Fitness to Practise**

As a direct result of consultation with the OEIs work began to establish a mechanism by which the Education Committee could support the OEI's in ensuring that professionalism of students is emphasised early on in their careers and that only students who are fit to practise are awarded a Recognised Qualification (RQ). Actions included:-

- Joint seminar held with GMC in December 2009 to look at roles of schools and regulators in other healthcare professions.
- Examination of case study session with OEIs to identify issues surrounding Fitness to practise to scope out work required in this area.
- Student Fitness to Practise Working group established to work on required guidance and procedures including OEIs and students. Position Statement recommended to Council for publishing to clarify fitness to practise and the role of the OEI in awarding an RQ.

### **Transition into Practice**

Having recognised that graduates may need further support in the transition from student to practitioner, the Education Committee has started the development of the specification for research into the preparedness of recent osteopathic graduates for practice.

### **Scope of Practice**

A draft Scope of Practice model was developed during 2008/09. Work began to consult with the profession as to whether it was appropriate to all aspects of osteopathic practice. Actions included:-

- Presentation of consultation / debate at 6 regional consultation meetings.

- Scope of Practice consultation analysed and results published leading to further research being identified as required.
- Development of a draft specification for research into patterns of practice.
- Participation in European Federation of Osteopaths (EFO) Working Group to develop a European Scope of Practice document ensuring that the GOsC position is promoted in Europe.

## **Revalidation**

A revalidation model was developed during 2008 and it was consulted upon during 2009. Actions included:-

- Presentation of revalidation consultation at 6 regional meetings.
- Analysis of 2009 Revalidation consultation completed and published
- Revised governance structure established to oversee the further development of assessment criteria and a detailed evaluation.
- Completion of first stage of IT work required to attach a revalidation module to the database in due course.
- Development of draft revalidation framework of standards, assessment and evidence in preparation for revalidation pilots.
- Recruitment of Assessment Expert Team including Caitrian Guthrie, Simeon London, Judith Neaves, John Patterson and Caroline Penn to develop detailed assessment criteria for Stage 1 of the Revalidation Scheme as well as guidance and examples of evidence to meet the assessment criteria.
- Recruitment of KPMG to undertake a detailed evaluation of our draft revalidation scheme looking at costs, benefits, and risk and proportionality.

## **Dissemination of Good Practice and notable external reports**

- CHRE Report on Quality Assurance of undergraduate education by the healthcare professional regulators completed in June 2009. The findings in this report were disseminated to our stakeholders in the September 2009 meeting with the OE Is. The findings were also recorded and will be taken into account as part of our preliminary Quality Assurance review.
- CHRE Report on clear sexual boundaries between health professionals and patients: a report on education and training; completed in January 2008 and published jointly with the NHS in May 2009. The findings in this report were disseminated to our stakeholders by circulating the report to the OEIs. The findings have also been logged to be taken into account in our pre-curriculum content review which will commence in 2010/11. The findings also informed the development of the draft Standard of Proficiency and Code of Practice.
- CHRE Report on Advanced Practice published in July 2009. The findings in this report were discussed at the Council Strategy Day in September 2009, at the

September 2009 meeting with the OEIs, and also published in the October 2009 edition of *The Osteopath*. The findings have been logged for us to take account of as we develop our thinking on advanced practice.

- NCOR Adverse Events publication; published twice in *Manual Therapy*, in February and December 2009. The report looks at the quality of adverse event reporting and how it can be improved. The implications of the findings were considered by the Education Committee.
- CHRE Healthcare for People with Disabilities, completed in December 2009. This report will be taken into account when considering the development of the pre-registration curriculum content.
- A further CHRE report: Health Conditions: Report to the four UK Health Departments published in June 2009 had a number of recommendations which were incorporated into the terms of reference of the Student Fitness to Practise Working Group to ensure that the recommendations were fully considered.
- The NICE Quick Reference Guide to Low Back Pain sent out with all copies of the June 2009 edition of *The Osteopath*.