

Education Committee  
 14 March 2012  
 Osteopathic Practice Standards Implementation

<b><u>Classification</u></b>	Public
<b><u>Purpose</u></b>	For decision
<b><u>Issue</u></b>	To provide an update on the implementation programme for the Osteopathic Practice Standards and progress on educational support and to agree the approach to the GOsC assessment review materials.
<b><u>Recommendations</u></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. To note the OPS Implementation Strategy document.</li> <li>b. To note the progress made with the educational support and the GOsC Assessment review work streams.</li> <li>c. To agree to delegate the approval of the assessment review materials to a separate group which could convene in June/July with the specific remit to approve the materials on behalf of the Education Committee prior to training.</li> </ol>
<b><u>Financial and resourcing implications</u></b>	None from this paper.
<b><u>Equality and diversity implications</u></b>	None
<b><u>Communications implications</u></b>	None
<b><u>Annex</u></b>	Annex A – Osteopathic Practice Standards Implementation Strategy document (including stakeholder analysis and high level milestones).
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## Background

1. The GOsC published its new Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS) on 1 July 2011; these will take effect on 1 September 2012. The intervening period is to be used by the GOsC for an implementation strategy to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are aware of the new standards, for osteopaths meet them and for the Osteopathic Educational Institutions (OEs) ensure that all students with a 'Recognised Qualification' meet them. The GOsC also needs to ensure that its own policies and procedures are in line with the OPS by 1 September 2012.
2. At its meeting on 15 December 2011, the Education Committee requested: clarification of the governance procedures to aid accountability; the inclusion of specified key milestones with dates; and an indication of the advice that would be sought from the Committee and when, together with an explanation about accountability and critical risks.
3. The Committee agreed to publish the invitation to tender for the revision of the Registration Assessments used by the General Osteopathic Council following the publication of the Osteopathic Practice Standards.
4. This paper provides an update on the governance and project structure and the progress of the OEs in the implementation of the Osteopathic Practice Standards.
5. The paper also asks for a small working group to meet in July to oversee the revision of the ACP criteria ahead of the coming into force of the Osteopathic Practice Standards on 1 September 2012.

## Discussion

### *Project planning*

6. The GOsC has established an OPS implementation working group consisting of the Senior Management Team, the Professional Standards Manager, the Regulation Manager and the Communications Manager to oversee the governance of the implementation project for OPS. Aspects of the implementation programme will also benefit from Committee and Council advice where appropriate.
7. The group has developed a Project Implementation Document which presents the various work streams to be conducted and this is at Annex A.
8. The implementation working group meet monthly to review the detailed plan.
9. This is a long-term project and a lot of work has already taken place in relation to implementation, but that there remains much to do. The initial strategy looks at a period of two years.

10. Certain aspects of the plan will require specific input from the Education Committee, such as the development of the GOsC assessment processes. These aspects will be brought to the Education Committee when expert advice is appropriate.
11. The main work streams that will continue to involve the expertise of the Education Committee for the purposes of this paper are as follows:
  - a. Educational Support – the aim of this work stream is to ensure that:
    - i. All OEIs will be applying the OPS by 1 September 2012 to ensure that only those students who meet the OPS from 1 September 2012 will be granted a 'recognised qualification'.
    - ii. All QAA assessors apply the revised OPS from 1 September 2012 to ensure that OEIs are ensuring that only those students who are capable of meeting the OPS after 1 September 2012 are awarded a 'recognised qualification'.
  - b. GOsC Registration Assessment review – the aims of this work stream are to:
    - i. Revise all the processes for registration assessments to ensure that they reflect the OPS from 1 September 2012.
    - ii. Ensure that all registration assessors apply the revised OPS from 1 September 2012 to ensure that only those applicants that meet the OPS are registered with us (fitness to practise and registration appeal panellists are dealt with separately).

*Educational support – quality assurance*

12. In their annual report submissions for 2011, the majority of Osteopathic Educational Institutions (OEIs) have reported that they have either completed or made substantial progress in mapping their curricula and learning outcomes to the new OPS.
13. The GOsC has also offered to speak to the faculty of all OEIs about the introduction of the new OPS. The Chief Executive has already spoken to the faculty of the BSO and the Professional Standards Manager is due to speak to the faculty of the College of Osteopaths on 8 March. A request has also been received from Swansea University for the GOsC to discuss implementation with their staff and this is to be arranged.
14. During 2011, all assessors received training on the revised Osteopathic Practice Standards and the revised QAA Handbook method. All reviews are now being carried out against those revised standards as the duration of the qualifications awarded will endure beyond 1 September 2012. Further training will also take place during 2012.

*GOsC Registration Assessment Review*

15. At its last meeting the Education Committee agreed to publish an advertisement seeking a tender for reviewing all the GOsC Registration Assessments to ensure that they are mapped to the new OPS before 1 September 2012.
16. The tender was advertised during 2012. A tender panel consisting of Mr Liam Stapleton (Lay Chair of panel and Education Committee member), Mr Robert McCoy (osteopath and Education Committee member), Mr Brian McKenna (osteopath and Education Committee member) and Mr Matthew Redford (GOsC Head of Finance) met on 22 February 2012 to interview the applicants.
17. The tender panel is considering its final decision before the preferred tenderer is announced.
18. One further aspect relating to the tender affects the oversight of the assessment materials produced to support the process and training. These need to be agreed and in place before training is delivered to assessors. They include a process guide and assessment criteria for each assessment process. All tenders considered by the panel outline completion of written support materials by 30 June 2012, with modifications as a result of discussion being made in early July. Training will then be delivered prior to 1 September 2012.
19. Expert advice on the assessment materials will be required during July 2012 to enable the revised materials to be in place for 1 September 2012.
20. The Committee is therefore asked to delegate the approval of the materials to a small sub group which could convene in July 2012 with the specific remit to approve the materials on behalf of the Education Committee prior to training.
21. It is proposed that the small group comprise three assessment experts from the Committee – and potentially the members convened for the Tender Panel – and is convened for one meeting during July with possible electronic working to agree the revised ACP materials. Progress on their work will be reported to the Committee.

**Recommendations:**

- a. To note the OPS Implementation Strategy document.
- b. To note the progress made with the educational support and the GOsC Assessment review work streams.
- c. To agree to delegate the approval of the assessment review materials to a separate group which could convene in June/July with the specific remit to approve the materials on behalf of the Education Committee prior to training.