



**General
Osteopathic
Council**

NEWS

1 December 2009

In Council: brief report of GOsC Council meeting, 15 July 2009

Corporate Plan 2010–2013

The Council considered and approved a Corporate Plan setting out the key priorities for GOsC activity from April 2010 to April 2013.

The plan aims to achieve the following five strategic objectives:

1. To ensure patient and public safety through effectively targeted regulation
2. To promote high standards of osteopathic healthcare
3. To maintain and enhance the integrity of the Register
4. To engage effectively with osteopaths, patients, the wider public, educators, and other key stakeholders to ensure our policies and processes are informed
5. To keep our activities and use of resources under review, making changes where necessary to ensure optimum performance and cost effectiveness.

There are a number of key activities to be undertaken in the next three years, including:

- Measures to protect vulnerable groups through CRB checks and integration of the Independent Safeguarding Authority's requirements within GOsC registration procedures
- Review of advanced or specialised practice and available post-graduate training for osteopaths
- Development of an appropriate research strategy to inform and underpin policy development and to determine the extent of the GOsC's role in supporting research aimed at broadening the evidence base for osteopathy

- Review of the continuing professional development (CPD) scheme to ensure it is fit for purpose and complements the emerging scheme of revalidation and, in parallel, to review the need for CPD quality assurance
- Review of quality assurance of education and training
- Support the osteopathic educational institutions (OEs) in making fair and consistent student fitness to practise decisions, ensuring that only those students who are fit to practise are awarded a recognised qualification
- To develop a comprehensive Patient and Public Involvement strategy, building on the activities already undertaken in this area and expanding the range of involvement techniques used to ensure maximum effectiveness
- Engagement with the profession on key regulatory issues including ways of reaching a larger proportion of the profession
- Enhancement of e-communications and online activity and development of online services.

Revalidation

The Council considered a report on the outcome of the first round of the revalidation consultation. The consultation findings, which had been independently analysed, arose from written responses submitted and recordings of the six meetings held with osteopaths across the UK from March to June 2009.

The Council also considered a plan for the next steps in the revalidation programme, which will include the development of an assessment process and preparation for a comprehensive pilot to test and evaluate the draft revalidation scheme. It was reported to the Council that the GOsC would receive a grant of £235,000 from the Department of Health in 2009/2010 to go towards the costs of developing the revalidation scheme.

Appraisal of members of the GOsC governance structure

The performance of all members of the GOsC Council and committees will be appraised annually in accordance with a new scheme developed for the GOsC by an external agency. The Council received a presentation on how the appraisal scheme would work and how it could be used further to develop the skills of the GOsC's non-executive members.

Patient research

The Council was informed that the timetable for undertaking the Osteopathic Patient Expectations (OPEN) project had changed. A final report will now be made in April 2010 rather than December 2009, as originally predicted. The study findings will equip the GOsC with a better understanding of patient expectations and experience of osteopathic care, which will be used to inform and shape its policies and procedures. The findings will be published in due course.

Fitness to practise committees' reports

Investigating Committee

The Council noted that it was too early, following the establishment of the new committee, to identify trends in the types of cases being considered but that the numbers of formal complaints received appeared consistent with previous years. Cases considered involved issues of patient confidentiality, trust, communication, overcharging, practising without insurance and the health of the osteopath.

Professional Conduct Committee (PCC)

The Council noted that the Regulation Department was taking steps to increase the number of hearings taking place in 2010, to ensure that cases were dealt with in a timely manner.

The Chair of the PCC identified several matters that may improve procedures and these are currently under consideration.

Health Committee

The Council noted a request by the Chair of the Health Committee for further training of Committee members on the implications of the Disability Discrimination Act for cases involving health issues. It was decided that this training will be provided.

There were no notable equality and diversity issues arising from any of the committees' work.

Future Council meetings

- 19 January 2010
- 14 April 2010
- 13 July 2010
- 14 October 2010
- 18 January 2011
- 12 April 2011

Meetings begin at 10am at Osteopathy House and [agendas](#) for the public session are available on this website approximately 7 to 10 days before the meeting. Public sessions of Council meetings are open to members of the public, including osteopaths.

Minutes

Full minutes of this meeting will be available on this website after the next Council meeting on 19 January 2010. Minutes of previous meetings are available at www.osteopathy.org.uk/about/the-organisation/meetings/.

