



Council
29 January 2014

Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issue	The publication of draft Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education for consultation.
Recommendation	To publish draft Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education for consultation.
Financial and resourcing implications	Costs for the development of the Guidance comprise £6000 and are part of the budget for 2013-14. This includes all associated costs for developing and consulting on the guidance as well as any expert advice required when finalising the document (e.g. advice on equality and diversity implications of final version of Guidance).
Equality and diversity implications	A draft equality impact assessment has been partially completed. Equality and diversity is a key part of the development of the Guidance and therefore questions about equality and diversity form a part of the consultation to inform the ongoing equality impact assessment. We also plan to commission an expert to consider the final draft of the guidance, the final impact assessment and to help us consider the best way to monitor and evaluate the impact of the Guidance moving forward.
Communications implications	The Communications Strategy is outlined in this paper at Annex C.
Annexes	Annex A – Terms of Reference – Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education Working Group Annex B - Draft Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education Annex C – Communications Strategy for the draft Guidance for Pre-registration Education
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Background

1. The Corporate Plan 2013 to 2016 states that we will ‘...promote public and patient safety through proportionate, targeted and effective regulatory activity’. As part of this we have committed to ‘ensure that initial education and training is of high-quality and is fit for purpose in an evolving healthcare and higher education environment’. One of the ways in which we will contribute this goal is to ‘produce guidance for osteopathic pre-registration education, developed with a wide variety of stakeholder input, publishing proposals, consulting and implementing changes in partnership with osteopathic educational institutions (OEIs), the osteopathic profession, patients and others.’
2. The 2013-14 Business Plan states that we will:
 - Develop draft guidance through Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education Working Group comprising patients, students, osteopaths and lay people.
 - Identify key issues for discussion in group and inclusion in draft guidance (drawing on a variety of resources both within osteopathy and the wider healthcare environment) ensuring that osteopathic education continues to meet contemporary expectations of multi-professional healthcare.
 - Devise a communication and consultation strategy to encourage a breadth and depth of responses.
 - Approve and publish draft Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education and consultation questions
3. Council last considered the Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education on 29 March 2012. Council was appraised of discussions between OEIs and GOsC about the nature and development of Guidance. It was noted that it had taken some time to agree the purpose and the draft terms of reference of the project. This was mainly due to concerns that the original plan for this project described ‘pre-registration curriculum content’ and it was felt that this was an unnecessary level of prescription for the Guidance envisaged. Council agreed the purpose and terms of reference for the project. The work was subsequently overseen by the Education Committee and then the Education and Registration Standards Committee.
4. The Guidance was developed by the Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Working Group comprising patient and lay members, osteopaths and those involved in education from some osteopathic educational institutions. The group met on three occasions on 8 November 2012, 7 May 2013 and 11 September 2013. The meetings were very constructive and positive and have led to the development of draft guidance for consultation, a consultation document incorporating the key issues for consultation and also the development of a

consultation strategy to ensure that all stakeholders have the opportunity to comment on the Guidance.

5. On 14 May 2013, the Education and Registration Standards Committee approved revised Terms of Reference of the Guidance about Osteopathic Pre-registration Education working group to reflect feedback from the first meeting of the working group that the terms of reference should be regarded as a living document to recognise the sensitivities involved in developing this guidance and to recognise the collaborative nature of the work.' The terms of reference are attached at Annex A.
6. The Committee also noted the progress of the Working Group which included consideration of a first working draft which was based on professional (rather than academic requirements) and which was framed under the four themes of the Osteopathic Practice standards and which drew on similar guidance from the GMC, HCPC and other regulators as well as relevant research. Given the sensitivities of the development of the guidance, the Committee was keen to ensure that all OEIs had been involved in the development of the Guidance ahead of consultation.
7. On 19 September 2013, the Committee agreed the consultation strategy which included that the Guidance would be considered by Council in January 2014 for consultation following a further consideration of the draft by the OEIs.
8. The Committee also took the opportunity to consider the development of the Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education and the issues for consultation ahead of the Council's decision to publish the Guidance for consultation in January.
9. Feedback from the Committee included:
 - a sense, from some members, that there needed to be more information about 'osteopathy' in the document to illustrate what it was that made this guidance for osteopathic pre-registration education as opposed to any other form of health education. Perhaps 'osteopathic principles' needed to be clearer within the document. It was felt that this could be explored further in consultation. However, it was also felt that the document does situate osteopaths more clearly in the healthcare professional environment.
 - The Guidance should include 'abnormal' as well as 'normal' function.
 - The Guidance should strengthen research requirements so that they required a 'critical appraisal' of the research, professional knowledge and why it was important or not. Awareness of journals and other peer-reviewed resources and guidelines could also be highlighted here.
 - Highlighting the need of risk assessment of themselves and others could strengthen the implicit suggestion in the document.
 - The complaints section could deal with the need to anticipate complaints as well as dealing with them effectively.
 - The role of other health professionals and the need for referral could be made more explicit.

10. Appropriate revisions to the guidance and the consultation documents were made following the meeting and the draft Guidance was sent out electronically to all the working group, all the osteopathic educational institutions and to the Education and Registration Standards Committee for further consideration during October and November 2013. Four responses were received with positive feedback such as 'a thorough piece of work' and 'happy with them as a starting point to go for further consultation'. Some minor suggestions were made and have been incorporated in relation to IT and business management skills.
11. This paper explains how we have developed the guidance and the consultation strategy and asks Council to agree to publish the draft Guidance for consultation.

Discussion

12. The draft Guidance is attached at Annex B.
13. A copy of the draft consultation document is available on request from Fiona Browne (fbrowne@osteopathy.org.uk). This goes into more detail about the proposed consultation questions and areas of consultation. A summary of the key issues is outlined below.
 - Outcomes – are the four themes of the Osteopathic Practice Standards (communication and patient partnership, knowledge, skills and performance, safety and quality in practice and professionalism) the right structures to use for this guidance?
 - Leadership – is the emphasis on aspects of leadership providing the right balance for osteopathic practice?
 - Mentoring and teaching – is the incorporation of outcomes in relation to skills of mentoring and teaching appropriate?
 - Business skills and marketing – does the incorporation of outcomes in relation to business skills and marketing provide the right balance for patients and practice?
 - Core presentations and techniques – a combination of outcomes, a range of presentations and a minimum level of clinical experience and techniques in the guidance aim to provide sufficient breadth and depth of exposure to ensure the opportunity to consolidate sufficient skills ahead of graduation to enable safe and effective independent practice. The consultation document explores this and seeks feedback on this approach. We are also exploring the equality and diversity implications of specifying core presentations and techniques. In this part of the consultation we also explore whether there is sufficient information about 'osteopathy' in the Guidance to enable it to make sense to students, osteopaths or patients.
14. The consultation strategy is attached at Annex C. The strategy is being aligned with the discussion with stakeholders about continuing fitness to practise (see item 17 of the Agenda), to ensure the best use of their time. For example, the Chief Executive and Registrar presented on both the draft continuing fitness to

practise framework and also the draft Guidance at the British Osteopathic Association Council meeting on 22 January 2014.

15. Each of the documents above has been developed with considerable input from stakeholders, consideration of a broad range of guidance both within the osteopathic field but also the healthcare regulatory context more generally, consideration of appropriate research and reports and through the input of a broad stakeholder working group. The work has also had expert oversight through the Education Committee and more recently the Education and Registration Standards Committee. The engagement strategy provides Council with reassurance that we are consulting widely on this Guidance.
16. While there are some issues – such as the amount of osteopathy contained in the document – that are still matters for debate, it is suggested by the Working Group and the Education and Registration Standards Committee that the Guidance is in a sufficient position to be published for consultation.

Recommendation: to publish draft Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education for consultation.