



## Education and Registration Standards Committee

Minutes of the Education and Registration Standards Committee Part I held on 25  
June 2014 at 2.00p.m

### Unconfirmed

Chair: Professor Colin Coulson-Thomas

Present: Dr Jorge Esteves  
Dr Jane Fox  
Professor Bernardette Griffin  
Mr Robert McCoy  
Ms Alison J White

In attendance: Mr Tim Walker, Chief Executive and Registrar  
Ms Fiona Browne, Head of Professional Standards  
Mr Matthew Redford, Head of Registration and Resources  
Mr Marcus Dye, Professional Standards Manager  
Mr David Gomez, Head of Regulation  
Ms Marcia Scott, Council and Executive Support Officer

### **Item 1: Apologies and interests**

1. Apologies were received from Liam Stapleton and Brian McKenna.
2. The Chair noted it was the last meeting which Marcus Dye would attend before leaving the GOSC. On behalf of the Committee the Chair told Marcus that his work was very much recognised and thanked him and wished him well for the future.

### **Item 2: Minutes and matters arising**

3. The minutes of the Education and Registration Standards Committee meeting of 27 February were agreed as a correct record.
4. There were no matters arising

### **Item 3: Scrutiny/Risk Register**

5. The Chief Executive introduced the item reminding members the Risk Register is kept up to date by the Senior Management Team, reviewed by Council every six months, and also reviewed at the meetings of the Audit Committee.
6. After the recent revisions to the Risk Register it now included a column describing the assurance mechanisms for each listed risk. Oversight of the

assurance mechanisms include Council and, on the recommendation of Council at its meeting in May 2014, the Committees in order that they may consider the Register in relation to their own roles.

7. The Committee were asked to for their views and comments on the Register and also requested to consider the following questions:
  - a. Does the Committee have adequate oversight of the mitigating actions described?
  - b. Are there any areas where Council oversight is the assurance mechanism where the Committee might provide additional supportive assurance or advice?
  - c. Are there any areas where the Committee considers it might be desirable to receive additional assurances but where this is currently missing?
8. The Chair commented that the revised register showed the collective responsibility of the ERSC and OPC. Members noted some amendments, for example, the ERSC Chair was not involved with the Quality Assurance Visitor appraisals, this was undertaken by the QAA.
9. The Chief Executive confirmed after presenting to the Audit Committee he would circulate the final version of the register to the ERSC and OPC.
10. Members commented that they were happy with the register and it was agreed that the register would be submitted for review by the ERSC on an annual basis, although it would also be helpful for the ERSC to have it in mind at each Committee meeting to support their scrutiny of the papers.

#### **Item 4: Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education (GOPRE)**

11. The Head of Professional Standards introduced the item concerning the further development of the *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education* (GOPRE) consultation and the next steps. She informed members that the responses to the consultation were very useful and would welcome further comment from the Committee
12. It was noted out that the references to the British Osteopathic Association (BOA) should be amended to its new name the Institute of Osteopathy (iO).
13. Members asked whether the GOsC had been looking for any specific responses to the questions set out in the consultation and what would happen next. Members also asked how the Guidance differs from the *Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS)*?
14. In response the Head of Professional Standards explained that the OPS set out our core standards for registration and expected of registrants. The GOPRE sets out professional expectations of osteopathic education and graduates. The QAA

Subject Benchmark for Osteopathy sets out the consensus of osteopathic educational community about the academic requirements of osteopathy.

15. The Head of Professional Standards explained that all guidance documents are tools supporting GOsC stakeholders including patients, prospective students, students, faculty and osteopathic educational institutions as well as other health professionals. The Chief Executive added that the key use of GOPRE is within the osteopathic education institutions. Members agreed that GOPRE also underpinned professionalism.

**Noted:** the Committee noted the emerging themes arising from the consultation on the GOPRE.

**Agreed:** the Committee agreed to re-establish the Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education Working Group with additional representation from the Osteopathic Alliance and the Institute of Osteopathy.

### **Item 5: Education and Registration Standards Committee Annual Report**

16. The Head Professional Standards introduced the item which concerned the Annual Report of the Education and Registration Committee to be submitted to Council at its meeting in July 2014.
17. Members agreed this was a good report but wondered whether the Committee had considered the following aspects of the terms of reference this year:
  - f. Exercise powers to require information from osteopathic educational institutions in connection with its statutory functions in accordance with section 18 of the Act.
  - g. Monitor reports from fitness to practice panels and information from other relevant sources in developing policy on undergraduate education.
18. It was explained that the Committee exercised its powers in relation to s18 in requesting information from the educational institutions each year in the Annual Report which formed part of the process of quality assurance and monitoring. It was also confirmed that the Committee received information about fitness to practice annually although agreed that the report did not make explicit how the information had fed into policy development. It was suggested that this could be considered in the drafting of the papers over the course of the next year or so.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed the content of the ERSC Annual Report for 2013-2014.

### **Item 6: Professionalism**

19. The Head of Professional Standards introduced the item which concerned the progress in establishing a working group on undergraduate professionalism. She advised members that work would commence with the OEIs towards the end of

2014 once the Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education had been finalised.

**Noted:** The Committee noted the progress in establishing the working group on professionalism in professional practice.

### **Item 7: Quality Assurance Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy – 2014 Review**

18. The Professional Standards Manager introduced item concerning the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) review of its existing Subject Benchmark Statement.
19. Members noted again the discussion at item 4 in relation to how different pieces of guidance, documents and statements fitted together.

**Noted:** the Committee noted the development of a revised Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy.

### **Item 8: Patient and Public involvement in education**

20. The Head of Professional Standards introduced the item which gave an update on the further development of patient and public involvement in osteopathic education.
21. Members welcomed the work to date but commented that engagement in selection and recruitment was not mentioned. The Head of Professional Standards responded that this had been noted and would be explored further in the development of the electronic resource.
22. Members also asked whether equality and diversity in relation to those with disabilities were also considered. The Head of Professional Standards responded that this was an area which required work. It had been noted that the people who tended to get involved in patient involvement were those who had the time to, and ensuring a diverse pool of those involved required further more detailed consideration of the barriers and how these might be broken down.

**Noted:** The Committee noted the further development of patient and public involvement in education.

### **Item 9: Professional Values**

23. The Head of Professional Standards introduced the item which concerned the first steps in the work towards the review of the *Osteopathic Practice Standards* (OPS).
24. She set out the plans and progress to date working with stakeholders on professional values as a foundation for scoping the review of the OPS. She explained the plans to hold a seminar/workshop to explore and better

understand what (in osteopathy) is meant by the term 'values' the outcome of which would hopefully lead to enhancement of patient care.

25. Invitations to the seminar would be restricted and invited organisations would be asked to nominate a representative to attend.
26. It was hoped that an outcome of the event would be start new thinking about professionalism and values and take these to a new level within the osteopathic profession. It was confirmed that as there will be representatives from other fields in attendance the Chief Executive of the PSA had been invited and had accepted the role of chair for the event.
27. **Noted:** the Committee noted the proposal for a seminar about professional values in Autumn 2014.

**Item 10: Any other business**

28. No other business was discussed.

**Item 11: Date of next meeting:** Thursday 2 October 2014