GENERAL OSTEOPATHIC COUNCIL Business Plan April 2016-March 2017

Monitoring at end of Q1

GOsC BUSINESS PLAN 2016-2017

The General Osteopathic Council has agreed a corporate plan for 2016-2019 which commits to achieving the three strategic objectives set out below, over the three year period.

Strategic Objectives

- 1. To promote public and patient safety through patient-centred, proportionate, targeted and effective regulatory activity
- 2. To encourage and facilitate continuous improvement in the quality of osteopathic healthcare
- 3. To use our resources efficiently and effectively, while adapting and responding to change in the external environment.

This document, the Business Plan 2016-2017, sets out the aims and detailed activities for the period April 2016 to March 2017, in support of each of the strategic objectives.

Legend

Status On track Minor delay Cancelled/postponed

1. To promote patient and public safety through patient-centred, proportionate, targeted and effective regulatory activity

1.1 Continuing professional development							
Goal: to ensure that osteopaths keep their knowledge and skills up to date, and continually enhance and improve their practice							
Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments		
Establish a strategy for the further development and implementation of a revised CPD scheme for osteopaths, working in partnership with all osteopathic stakeholders while ensuring appropriate governance oversight.	Professional Standards Communications Registration and Resources	April 2016			Governance structures agreed by Council in May 2016. The first meeting of the CPD Partnership Group is planned for September 2016.		
Recruit registrants and groups willing to work as 'early adopters' to test and refine the CPD scheme and its resources.	Professional Standards Communications	November 2016			Around 80 osteopaths have expressed interest as early adopters so far. We have also recruited groups of osteopaths for workshops to develop small group sessions for osteopaths participating in the pilot. Formal launch of recruitment for early adopters will commence in the late Summer.		
Update and publish learning resources that support the new CPD scheme – particularly in relation to communication and consent.	Professional Standards Communications Registration and Resources	December 2016			Ongoing.		
Review progress and legislative requirements, and consider timescales for introduction of compulsory elements of the CPD scheme.	Professional Standards Regulation Communications	March 2017			Ongoing.		
Publish new CPD Guidance and related resources.	Professional Standards Communications	March 2017					

Scope and undertake osteopathic continuing professional development evaluation to feed into 'State of Osteopathic Continuing Professional Development' report.	Professional Standards Communications Registration and resources	March 2017	Data analysis has commenced.
Conduct communications and engagement activities to support and promote the implementation of a new CPD scheme for osteopaths.	Communications Professional Standards	All year	Regular information and promotion in professional media. Direct email invitation to all registrants to recruit Early Adopters planned for late summer. Further targeted invitations to Regional Communications Network, to promote early adoption and 'train the trainer' activities. Meetings with Institute of Osteopathy to agree/plan coordinated activities.
Develop and test robust, web-based infrastructure to support the new CPD scheme.	Communications Registration and Resources	All year	
Audit 20% of CPD Annual Summary Forms and 2% of CPD folders to ensure registrants are meeting current standards and to identify good practice and areas for improvement.	Registration and Resources	All year	

1.2 Education and training

Goal: to ensure that osteopathic education is of high quality and continues to evolve to reflect changes in education and healthcare

Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments
Develop and implement strategy for raising awareness of the Guidance for Osteopathic Preregistration Education.	Professional Standards	December 2016			Ongoing. This has featured in training for Education Visitors and OEIs have been asked to disseminate guidance.

In partnership with OEIs, review standards for undergraduate education and identify any need for additional standards for delivery of the curriculum, training, learning or assessment to support high quality and safe patient care (including any additional guidance on boundaries).	Professional Standards	June 2016	Ongoing. Meeting with the Chair of the Council of Osteopathic Educational Institutions planned. We are also developing specific collaborative research proposals in conjunction with another regulator in relation specifically to boundaries for further consideration.
In partnership with OEIs, identify any themes from GOPRE that can be used to undertake thematic reviews as part of the quality assurance process.	Professional Standards	September 2016	As above.
In partnership with the Council for Osteopathic Educational Institutions, develop mechanisms for bringing together faculty from different OEIs to identify challenges in the delivery of osteopathic education, including through collective solutions and CPD opportunities for faculty.	Professional Standards	March 2017	Discussion at GOsC/OEI meeting took place on 23 May 2016 included discussion on this item.
Identify and share areas of good practice from Annual Reports in teaching, learning and assessment.	Professional Standards	June 2016	Good practice from annual report analysis disseminated to OEIs in April 2016. Good practice seminar to take place in September 2016.
Continue to monitor and enhance the quality of osteopathic education by: ensuring appraisal and training of Education Visitors; undertaking periodic quality assurance reviews; agreeing changes to Annual Reports; collecting and analysing data and disseminating findings, feedback and good practice to the sector; monitoring action plans, conditions and requirements; monitoring course closure plans.	Professional Standards	All year	Training of Visitors took place in March 2016. Further training is being planned for March 2017. Visitors appointed for three RQ visits during 2016. June 2016 – statutory Education Committee considered a range

				of activity in relation to quality assurance including follow up to annual reports, consideration of changes reported under general conditions and course closure plans.
Complete engagement process on quality assurance discussion document, report findings and complete development of new proposals and method (in conjunction with quality assurance partner).	Professional Standards	March 2017		A presentation is planned to Council on 12 July 2016 to provide an update on our quality assurance activity and progress on the quality assurance review.
Work with OEIs to continue to develop patient involvement in the delivery of osteopathic education.	Professional Standards Communications	All year		Ongoing.
Continue to promote professionalism within OEIs, and among students and faculty.	Professional Standards Communications	All year	•	Ongoing.
Conduct annual programme of on-campus GOsC presentations to osteopathic students to support training outcomes, embed understanding of the role of the GOsC, and assist transition into practice.	Professional Standards Communications Registration Regulation	All year		Ongoing.
Further develop targeted communications for osteopathic students to support transition into practice.	Communications	All year		Registration packs including dedicated guide (<i>Introducing the GOSC – a guide for new registrants</i>), provided to all new registrants.

1.3 Fitness to practise						
Goal: to ensure patient safety by taking effective, timely and proportionate action on complaints about osteopaths						
Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments	
Manage the complaints caseload in an efficient, effective, fair and timely way seeking to achieve a	Regulation	All year			Ongoing.	

Regulation	All year		External audit of final PCC decisions in the year ending December 2015 took place in March and April 2016.
Regulation	November 2016		
Regulation	All year		Induction training was provided to new IC/PCC members on 17 May 2016. The annual IC training day took place on 17 June 2016.
Regulation	All year		
Regulation	All year		
Regulation	Timing TBC		
Regulation	Timing TBC		
	Timing TBC	•	
Regulation	March 2016		A paper covering legally qualified chairs and hearings without legal assessors was considered by the OPC in February 2016
Regulation	March 2016		A paper was presented and
	Regulation Regulation Regulation Regulation Regulation Regulation Regulation	Regulation November 2016 Regulation All year Regulation All year Regulation Timing TBC Regulation Timing TBC Regulation March 2016	Regulation November 2016 Regulation All year Regulation All year Regulation Timing TBC Regulation Timing TBC Regulation March 2016

of case examiners.			discussed at the OPC meeting in February 2016
Review and enhance existing PCC bank of conditions.	Regulation	Timing TBC	
Review best practice across regulators for the support and information provided to registrants and identify proposals for consideration by the Policy Advisory Committee.	Regulation	June 2016	

1.4 Registration

Goal: to ensure that only those eligible to do so practise as osteopaths in the UK and to increase understanding, awareness and use of the register

Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments
Ensure compliance with the Osteopaths Act 1993	Registration and	All year			Ongoing.
and the underpinning Registration Rules and identify	Resources				
enhancements to existing registration processes.	Regulation				
Ensure the quality of registration assessments,	Professional	All year			Planning activity for training
including the training and appraisal of GOsC	Standards,				taking place in the Autumn is
registration assessors and return to practice	Registration and				underway.
reviewers, moderation meeting facilitation and	Resources				
regular communications and evaluation.					
Seek feedback from those using or applying our	Registration and	All year			
registration processes (including registrants,	Resources				
registration applicants and registration assessors) in	Communications				
order to better understand their experiences and					
improve our registration system.					
Ensure compliance with the amended EU Directive	Registration and	All year			Ongoing.
2013/55/EU, identifying enhancements to existing	Resources				
registration processes, if needed.					
Implement a new system for auditing evidence of	Registration and	Timing TBC			
professional indemnity insurance held by registrants.	Resources				
Continue to establish a network of contacts with	Registration and	All year			
peers in other regulatory bodies and similar	Resources				

organisations to share experiences and best practice.			
Continue to encourage osteopaths to promote awareness of their registered status and the GOsC Register – monitoring levels of registrant take-up.	Communications	All year	As of 16 June 2016, 1,600 Marks have been issued to osteopaths. Ongoing promotion in professional media. Audit of osteopaths' websites to ensure compliance re use of Registration Marks, GOsC logo and now defunct Certification Mark. To date, 800 osteopath websites have been audited.
Seek to develop greater awareness of the Register and the GOsC's regulatory role within the wider healthcare community.	Communications	All year	April and June 2016: Media activity around Section 32 prosecution (Bruce Carnegie) and removal from the Register due to a fitness to practise decision (Nigel Graham), leading to local media coverage.
Seek to develop links with European Competent Authorities to facilitate registration and information exchange.	Chief Executive Registration	All year	Meetings being sought with French and Portuguese authorities.
Scope review of registration assessments to ensure proportionality of GOsC requirements, particularly for applicants from countries where osteopathy is already regulated.	Professional Standards, Registration and Resources	March 2017	
Undertake review of registration assessment costs and implement revised charges.	Registration and Resources and Professional Standards	March 2017	An electronic survey collating feedback about time taken and costs has been developed and will shortly be disseminated to all assessors and applicants.
Investigate individuals identified or reported to GOsC as incorrectly describing themselves as	Regulation	All year	

osteopaths, write 'cease and desist' letters to them, and prosecute those who ignore such letters.				
Monitor activity of individuals removed from the Register during 2014-15, identified in accordance with procedures agreed with Registration Department (writing 'cease and desist' letters and prosecuting them as necessary, as described above).	Registration, Regulation	All year		Ongoing.

1.5 Patient involvement and engagement

Goal: to put patients, patient-centred regulation and patient-centred healthcare at the heart of our work

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Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments
Assess all policy development activities at the outset to ascertain patient and public involvement (PPI) requirements and develop/implement a public and patient engagement plan where appropriate.	Communications	All year	•		Ongoing. Promotion of OPS review via HealthWatch England and other public/patient networks. Social media promotion of new GOsC witness guidance.
Continue to recruit members to the GOsC Patient Partnership Group, keeping members informed and engaged.	Communications	All year			Ongoing
Strengthen partnerships with patient representative groups, including HealthWatch England and equivalent networks in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, to expand GOsC access to patients and to increase awareness of osteopathy as a regulated practice.	Communications	All year			Feb-May 2016: positive engagement with HealthWatch network, Scottish Health Councils, Welsh CHCs and Northern Ireland Patient Client Council around promotion of OPS review.
Ensure adequate and appropriate patient/public input into the review of the <i>Osteopathic Practice Standards</i> .	Communications	July 2016	•		Comprehensive engagement: Feb-end May 2016 with GOsC Patient Partnership Group, patient/public representative organisations, indemnity

			insurers and other healthcare regulators.
Introduce new GOsC Witness Guidance (including leaflets and on-line information).	Regulation Communications	May 2016	Launched May 2016 'Witness Guidance' leaflet and introductory video for witnesses
Seek feedback from the public and patients to assess the quality of key GOsC public information and implement improvements to content and format where required.	Communications	All year	

2. To encourage and facilitate continuous improvement in the quality of osteopathic healthcare

2.1 Standards and professionalism Goal: to promote high standards of practice and professionalism in the osteopathic profession						
Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments	
Develop and implement a communications and engagement strategy to support and promote the 2016-17 revision of the <i>Osteopathic Practice Standards</i> (OPS).	Communications Professional Standards	All year			Targeted communications and engagement strategy for the OPS review: February-May 2016, including: • dedicated website (http://standards.osteopathy.org.uk), to allow respondents to easily access and navigate the standards and lodge comments, publicly or privately. Promotional video, presentations, and features in the professional media. At the end of the review 334 comments had been submitted on the site, with	

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		29 email submissions.
	•	Introductory video: 383
		views.
	•	Lead story in January-May
		news e-bulletin
	•	Targeted email to all
		registrants
	•	<i>The osteopath</i> magazine:
		Feb/March 2016 – launch of
		review; focus on
		Communication and Patient
		Partnership, and Knowledge,
		Skills and Performance.
		April/May 2016 – Safety and
		Quality in Practice, and
		Professionalism. June-July
		2016 – update on review
		progress.
		• zone: ongoing news items
		Flyer in renewal of
		registration packs March-
		May.
		Targeted emails to /
		engagement with education
		providers, osteopathic
		representative organisations,
		students, local groups,
		health and social care
		regulators, indemnity
		insurers, registration
		assessors, legal assessors,
		private health insurers,
		government departments,

				patients and the public, GOsC staff and governance structure.
Undertake desk research to support the review of the Osteopathic Practice Standards.	Professional Standards	July 2016	li c v g s t v	Desk research, review of iterature and perspectives ongoing – also supplemented with face to face meetings to gain feedback on our specific standards in a range of contexts to support a rounded review. We have also met with an esteopath who works within the NHS to gather feedback from a different context on the standards.
Undertake comprehensive call for evidence, engaging with a range of stakeholders; review and analyse evidence.	Communications Professional Standards	February to September 2016	S	See above.
Redraft the <i>Osteopathic Practice Standards,</i> prepare for consultation, and consult.	Professional Standards	December 2016 to March 2017		
Scope need for supplementary guidance and learning materials to support greater understanding and effective use of the <i>Osteopathic Practice Standards</i> .	Professional Standards Communications	March 2017		
Work with the Institute of Osteopathy on the development of its 'Patient Charter' and with the Osteopathic Development Group on the development of Service Standards for the osteopathic profession.	Chief Executive Communications	All year		

2.2 Capacity building

Goal: to ensure that the osteopathic profession continues to develop its capacity to improve patient experience and high quality care

Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments
Develop a communications programme to encourage awareness of and engagement in projects to support the development of the profession	Communications	All year			Along with features in the professional media, launch of dedicated ODG website: http://osteodevelopment.org.uk - May 2016. Complementary quarterly ODG bulletin planned for the summer.
 Continue to provide support for Osteopathic Development Group projects including: Leadership – provide financial and administrative support for second year of osteopathic leadership programme. Service standards – work with the Institute of Osteopathy on development and integration of proposed service standards and patient charter. Mentoring – support the implementation of recommendations resulting from completion of phase 1 of the ODG mentoring project. Advanced practice – support the implementation of recommendations resulting from completion of phase 1 of the ODG advanced practice project. Regional support – with the Institute of Osteopathy, promote capacity building within local osteopathic groups to contribute to the development of the profession and the new CPD scheme. International – continue to support and promote the use of the new resources on international osteopathy developed by the ODG. 	Communications Professional Standards Chief Executive	All year			Leadership – first workshop for second year of programme completed Service standards – standards agreed by ODG board Mentoring – research phase complete ACP – research phase near completion Regional support – support guide developed and seeking feedback International – dedicated website launched: http://osteointernational.uk PROMs – a pilot study of a PROM tool has concluded and roll-out to the profession has commenced. PROMs activity regularly promoted in osteopath media.

•	PROMs – promote the work of NCOR on patient			
	reported outcome measures and other reporting			
	tools.			

2.3 Research, practice and regulation Goal: to use evidence from data collection, risk analysis and research to inform the development of osteopathic regulation and practice						
Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments	
Engage with the Professional Indemnity Insurance Providers and the professional association to review 2015 complaints/claims data; identify trends; agree action, and review/revise data collection and dissemination strategy for 2016.	Communications Regulation	All year			NCOR final report on 2015 data considered at PAC in June 2016 and disseminated to participating organisations.	
Continue to support the National Council of Osteopathic Research as a means to increase research awareness and research activity within the osteopathic profession.	Communications	All year			Ongoing. Dedicated section in the bi-monthly <i>the osteopath</i> magazine.	
Analyse data relating to individual registrants subject to complaints to identify ways to improve standards and reduce the risk of complaints.	Regulation Communications	Subject to initial scoping 2015-16				
Continue to develop work in relation to values in practice to support the development of the <i>Osteopathic Practice Standards</i> and new CPD scheme.	Professional Standards	All year			We are working to develop a proposal in collaboration with other regulators and the Collaborating Centre for Values Based practice to explore links between particular activities or dialogue and patient feedback for further consideration.	

3. To use our resources efficiently and effectively, while adapting and responding to change in the external environment

3.1 Service quality and engagement						
Goal: to enhance the quality of service that we provi	de to patients and t	he public, regis	strants and	our other st	akeholders	
Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments	
Continue to identify opportunities for enhancing customer service standards, and implement.	Communications	All year			Customer service audit conducted May-June 2016. During the survey period a total of 251 links to the survey were sent out, 39 in response to enquiries by telephone and 212 in response to enquiries by email; 27 responses received. The majority of people who responded (78%) had contacted us initially by telephone, although more links to the survey were sent to people who had enquired by email. Findings were very positive and indicated staff working well within the GOsC service standards. A full report on the findings and action arising will be made to the June meeting of the Audit Committee.	
Review GOsC feedback mechanisms, with a view to improving stakeholder feedback opportunities, services and communications.	Communications	All year	•		Specific feedback is now being sought from registration assessors and applicants systematically which is a new development this year.	
Develop a new GOsC Communications and	Communications	May 2016			Implemented from May 2016.	

Engagement Strategy to ensure our communications are diverse, targeted, informative and effective – working with others to increase our impact wherever possible.			
Ensure high quality consultation and engagement on policy and operational developments, including use of the GOsC Patient Partnership Group.	Communications	All year	 OPS review: March-end May 2016. Received over 360 comments from osteopaths, education providers, local groups, Institute of Osteopathy, indemnity insurers, patients, other health professionals and from within GOsC. Students with a disability or health impairment: Draft Guidance for Osteopathic Educational Institutions: 1 April-30 June 2016 Draft Guidance for applicants and students with a disability or health impairment: 1 April-30 June 2016 Draft Guidance about Professional Behaviours and Fitness to Practise for Osteopathic Students: 1 April-30 June 2016 Student Fitness to Practise: Draft Guidance for Osteopathic Educational Institutions: 1 April-30 June 2016.

			GOsC focus group on health and disability guidance for students and OEIs: 14 June 2016. Positive feedback received from participants.
Continue to provide GOsC representation at appropriate healthcare conferences/exhibitions across the UK to promote awareness of osteopathic regulation, registration and practice standards, and foster partnerships.	Communications	All year	GOsC representation on steering group for Scottish Regulation conference: 31 October 2016, Edinburgh. Poster abstract for the Altogether Better Health Conference by the Centre for the Advancement of Interprofessional Education has been accepted for presentation in September 2016.
 Continue to support regular engagement activities and events including: Meetings of the Regional Communications Network Meetings with osteopathic educational institutions Ongoing work with faculty in osteopathic educational institutions The work of the Osteopathic Development Group A programme of visits to local osteopathic groups A programme of visits to advanced practice osteopathic groups and CPD providers. 	Professional Standards Chief Executive Communications	All year	Ongoing.
Continue to provide high quality information to support registrants' engagement with the GOsC	Communications Regulation	All year	The osteopath: • April/May

including through:	June/July
Publication of six issues of <i>the osteopath</i>	News e-bulletins distributed:
magazine	April-June
Regular news e-bulletins and fitness to practise	Fitness to practise bulletin:
e-bulletins	• April 2016.
Use of social media.	Regular tweets/Facebook
	postings, to help us to extend
	our reach among stakeholders.

3.2 Economy, efficiency and effectiveness							
Goal: to operate efficient, economic and effective operational systems and processes							
Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments		
Implement a new IT Strategy and embed the aims and objectives within the wider staff team.	Registration and Resources	November 2016			Draft IT Strategy considered by SMT in June 2016.		
Establish a staff IT working group to share best practice, knowledge and experience.	Registration and Resources	December 2016					
Review our mechanisms to ensure we routinely seek feedback from the users of IT about their experiences and satisfaction with the technologies employed.	Registration and Resources	December 2016					
Explore our methods of communication and identify where we can use different technologies to interact with applicants, registrants and other customers of Registration, including through paperless working.	Registration and Resources	All year					
Tender for new arrangements for the provision of external legal services.	Regulation and Registration and Resources	March 2017					
Developing the Integra system to increase its functionality to suit fitness to practise case management requirements.	Regulation and Registration and Resources	December 2016					
Review cancellation fees for Committee members and reading fees for PCC/HC.	Regulation	June 2016			Review completed and approved by RaAC and Council.		

3.3 Governance

Goal: to operate with high standards of corporate governance and respond effectively to changes in the external environment

Activity	Lead	Timing	Status	Change	Comments
Provide regular reports to Council on progress	Chief Executive	All year			Ongoing.
against the business plan, and on financial, asset					
and risk management.					
Engage with the new PSA Performance Review	Chief Executive,	All year			PSA Performance Review
process, through regular data reporting and acting	Registration and				completed, final report
on issues arising from the performance review	Resources,				published.
process and associated audits.	Regulation				
Complete any new appointments to the governance	Chief Executive	All year			Recruitment process for two
structure, including where necessary using the					Council members commenced.
appointments procedure approved by PSA.					
Provide induction and ongoing training for new and	Chief Executive,	All year			Council, PCC and IC inductions
existing Council members and other	Regulation				completed.
non-executives.					
Develop and implement a new staff and non-	Chief Executive	July 2016			Due to be considered by Council
executive whistleblowing policy.					in July 2016
Organise training day for potential registrant	Chief Executive	October 2016			Planned for September 2016s
applicants for Council and other non-executive roles.					
Prepare an Annual Report on activities undertaken in	Chief Executive	June to			Due to be considered by Council
year and submit to Parliament.	Registration and	September			in July 2016.
	Resources	2016			
	Communications				
Develop and implement transition plan for charity	Chief Executive,	July 2016			Application to be completed July
registration.	Registration and				2016. Training planned for
	Resources				Council October 2016.
Continue to engage with the Department of Health	Chief Executive	All year			Ongoing.
and other regulators on potential changes to					
legislation.					