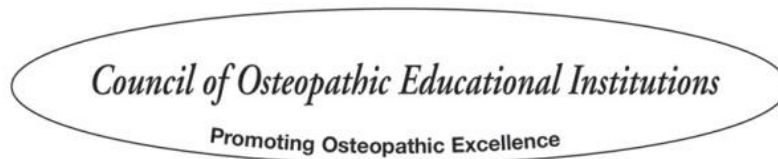


22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017



## **Council for Osteopathic Education Institutions strategic development and request for funding from the GOsC and the iO**

### **Introduction**

The Council for Osteopathic Education Institutions (COEI) was incorporated on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1997 with objects to advance education in all aspects of the study and practice of osteopathy through a provision of a forum to debate policies, make representations on behalf of the members with policy making authorities, to exchange good practice and maintain and advance academic quality by its members.

In the intervening period, although achievements have been limited, progress has been made in a number of areas. These include:

- Providing a regular meeting place for cross-sectoral discussions and joint liaison with the GOsC.
- Supporting work on the development of the profession, including providing input to a number of development projects.
- Making occasional responses to consultations and inquiries on behalf of the sector.

Perhaps most importantly COEI has helped engender a common understanding in the sector that there are benefits in cooperation that sit alongside the requirement to compete within the higher education market.

However, the effectiveness of COEI has been hampered for a number of reasons. Firstly the chair who came in to role after the sad and untimely death of Adrian Barnes in early 2014 reported that the role was unsustainable. The workload to meet operational objectives and attendance at meetings combined with their paid role meant that it was hard to have time to strategically drive the organisation forward. Second, the workload of key members within their respective institutions, and the substantial pressures a number of institutions have faced in recent years meant little support was available for the Chair, understandably momentum was lost.

The appointment of a new Chair in 2017 has afforded the opportunity to develop COEI to meet its potential and a series of meeting have been held to galvanise these ambitions into

action. It has been identified that the appointment of a part-time Executive Director is required to support the Chair and to help drive forward an agenda for change.

Initial conversations with both GOsC and iO have indicated a willingness to consider support for the recruitment of such an individual for a development period of three years with costs to be shared between COEI, GOsC and the iO

This paper sets out the time frame and objectives of COEI given this additional resource and to request funding support.

### **Objectives of COEI**

Our collective commitment has the potential to deliver significant impacts for osteopathic educators, their students, the communities directly relating to osteopathic education, and patients of both student and professional clinics.

Our commitments to the way osteopathic education services are delivered include:

- Respect between all osteopathic education institutions
- A commitment to the individual osteopathic educators
- A commitment to the osteopathic student clinicians
- A commitment to the health and wellbeing of osteopathic patients
- A commitment to the continual improvement of practice standards within the profession

Our priorities are to meet the challenges of changing needs:

- Of patients, student practitioners and the faculty of osteopathic educators
- In the development of the professional standards of osteopathic education in the UK
- To evaluate, evidence and improve the impact of osteopathic training and practice
- To share best practice
- To demonstrate value in an ever more demanding marketplace
- In delivering healthcare that meets the needs of the nation.

The development of COEI could provide space for osteopathic educators and researchers to communicate at all levels. Good practice, improving standards, growth of the profession's identity and development of future leaders cannot be implemented in silos. Only through a set of sector-wide changes will COEI be able to deliver its potential.

This will not come solely from within COEI, but from students, patients, educators and osteopathic communities engaging in a wider partnership. COEI will create the space and give the permission for effective engagement to take place and drive the change. It will need to engage with the relevant professional and governmental bodies to ensure osteopathic education is continually improving and osteopathic careers are satisfying, fulfilling and relevant.

Priority activity areas need to be in:

- Engagement with a variety of external stakeholders
- Development of activities aimed at improving professional and educational practice

- Contributing to policy development in osteopathy and health education more broadly
- Sharing best practice and developing the osteopathic education faculty
- Marketing the sector and osteopathy as a career choice.

These areas are set out in some more detail at the Annex.

A clear goal of COEI is to provide the framework for osteopathic education to continually improve. It is envisaged that the development of a 'Faculty of Osteopathic Educators' be the ultimate aim and for COEI to work collaboratively to identify future leaders within their faculties to lead the development of skills across the sector.

The development of COEI and the sector will be a long-term and ongoing project. This initial programme is aimed at supporting clear goals over a three-year period, including:

- Stability within OEs and growth in the undergraduate market
- Uniform and improving standards of education
- More effectively prepared graduate osteopaths
- Increased patient satisfaction and engagement
- Career satisfaction and development opportunities for osteopathic educators
- Greater ownership of osteopathic pre-registration education policy development
- Improvement in professional standards
- Transparency of institutional progress across the sector
- For practical purposes, less reliance on the GOsC to support the sector.

### **Costs**

At this stage, the proposal is deliberately limited in its nature. The intention is to build up capacity over time rather than seek to do everything at one. We are looking to engage an individual for approximately one day per week in the first instance to service the needs of the organisation, and to work with COEI members on their own capacity building.

Our initial estimate is that the costs would be £9,000 per annum which would be shared equally between COEI, GOsC and the iO.

### **Conclusion**

COEI cannot continue in its current mould if it is really to serve the needs of the sector and the wider osteopathic profession. We believe that the current proposal is an important opportunity for all osteopathic education stakeholders to commit to developing the sector for the benefit of osteopaths, students and patients. With financial support from GOsC and iO, COEI can recruit a part-time executive director to manage the project and drive its ambition with the support of the COEI Chair and non-executive directors.

## **Annex – potential work programme for COEI**

### **Engagement**

Engagement and development of partnerships with fellow healthcare professionals and outside partners including:

- Health Education England
- Council of Deans of Health
- Medical Schools Council
- Allied Health Professions bodies
- Local and National PCTs

### **Education and practice development**

Identifying areas for cooperation and improvement in the delivery of osteopathic care:

- Integration and mutual respect of osteopathic approaches
- Integration and communication with other allied health professionals
- Address perceived boundaries within the profession and between professions
- Promote evidence based/informed practice to set a minimum standard of osteopathic care whilst reflecting upon the value of traditional technique
- Patient engagement

Identifying areas for cooperation and improvement in osteopathic education:

- Shared best practice
- Clinical education
- Assessment strategies
- Technology
- Student experience
- Faculty development
- Identified career pathways for future leaders

### **Policy Engagement**

Areas of focus requiring policy ownership and development:

- Osteopathic Practice Standards
- Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-Registration Education
- QAA Osteopathic Benchmark statement
- World Health Organisation Benchmark in Training in Osteopathy
- European Standard for Osteopathic Healthcare Provision (CEN)
- Government and Parliamentary consultations and enquiries

### **Best practice**

Promoting cross-institutional collaborative activity in key areas (such as CPD) including but not limited to:

- Clinical education methods and assessment
- Specific collaboration to discuss managing the difficult relationship between student, patient and tutor
- The use of continual assessment systems
- Feedback and feedforward systems
- Database management
- Patient experience and feedback methods
- Student experience
- Epidemiological and Health Services research

Sharing of good practice directly between relevant levels of institution hierarchy:

- Programme leaders
- Department Heads
- Academic Quality and Registry
- Identified future leaders

### **Marketing**

Seeking to coordinate future marketing of the profession to prospective students:

- Undertaking collaborative activities at all main UCAS careers events together with the iO
- Providing a professional voice for osteopathic education
- Articulating a clear choice as a high quality option within the Allied Health Professions