



Council
14 May 2015
Chief Executive and Registrar's Report

Classification	Public
Purpose	For noting
Issue	A review of activities and performance since the last Council meeting not reported elsewhere on the agenda.
Recommendation	To note the content of the report.
Financial and resourcing implications	None.
Equality and diversity implications	None
Communications implications	None
Annexes	A. Progress against the 2015-16 Business Plan B. Financial report C. Risk Register
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Introduction

1. This report gives an account of activities of note that have been undertaken by the Chief Executive and others since the last Council meeting, which are not reported elsewhere on the agenda.

Council reconstitution

2. We have submitted an outline consultation document and draft rules to the Department of Health (England) for their consideration for the proposed changes to Council. The proposal is broadly based on the consultation document issued by the Department in 2013 when it was proposed to reduce the size of the Health and Care Professions Council from 20 to 12 members.

Law Commission/Jeremy Lefroy's Private Members' Bill

3. The Health and Social Care (Safety and Quality) Act 2015 received Royal Assent shortly before the dissolution of Parliament. The new Act will introduce the following wording into the Osteopaths Act:

'The over-arching objective of the General Council in exercising its functions is the protection of the public.

The pursuit by the General Council of its over-arching objective involves the pursuit of the following objectives:

- a. to protect, promote and maintain the health, safety and well-being of the public;
 - b. to promote and maintain public confidence in the profession of osteopathy; and
 - c. to promote and maintain proper professional standards and conduct for members of that profession.'
4. The amendments to the Act only come into effect once 'switched on' by secondary legislation which is expected to take place at some point after the General Election.
 5. These amendments are welcome as for the first time the objectives of the GOsC will be more explicit in relation to the interests of patients and the public.
 6. Any progress on the Law Commissions' proposals will obviously depend on the priorities of the new Government. We understand that the department of Health (England) is proceeding with the intention of seeking a first term Bill, but this will not be confirmed until the Queen's Speech which is scheduled to take place on 27 May 2015.

Development projects update

7. Progress is being made in all of the projects being undertaken under the auspices of the Osteopathic Development Group. Details of all the projects can be found on the Institute of Osteopathy's website at:
<http://www.osteopathy.org/for-osteopaths/development-of-the-profession/>
8. In summary progress on the projects is as follows:
 - Advanced clinical practice – initial literature research, a website audit and semi-structured interviews have been completed and are being analysed. The next stage of the project is a profession-wide survey due to take place shortly.
 - Service standards – consultation on the draft services standards has been completed. Suggestions included removing unnecessary overlap with the existing Osteopathic Practice Standards and ensuring that the standards are more explicit regarding how they could be used. The project team is now considering how the standards can be developed and how they might eventually be used.
 - Mentoring – similarly to the ACP project, initial literature research and semi-structured interviews have been completed and are being analysed. The next stage of the project is a profession-wide survey due to take place shortly.
 - Leadership – a contract has been signed with the Open University and a development day took place on 22 April. Recruitment for the programme has commenced and the first workshop is scheduled for 18 July.
 - Evidence – piloting of the data collection tool for Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) is continuing.
 - Career development – research to date suggests that producing a document that mapped the main career opportunities for osteopaths might be welcomed by the profession. This would also highlight the additional non-osteopathic skill sets that might be seen as desirable when following such a path, to allow osteopaths to plan and target their CPD accordingly. The next steps will be to identify the themes or chapter headings for such a document and how a range of case studies could be identified.
 - Regional development – early in the year regional society representatives were surveyed and in response to their feedback, the project team is working on resources to support setting up and sustaining a regional society, as well as providing examples of best practice. An online forum for regional society leads is also proposed. The next step for this project is the development of a content plan followed by further consultation with

regionals societies to ensure that the resources fit their needs before any final development takes place.

- International – a prototype international collaboration website has been developed and is now being populated with content. That website will be piloted over the summer, after which feedback will be sought from ODG members before it is launched.

CPD consultation

9. Since the last Council meeting we have formally launched the CPD consultation, which includes a bespoke website (<http://cpd.osteopathy.org.uk/>) providing the consultation information, videos and other resources for osteopaths. Since the site was launched there have been 4,485 visits, 1,497 document downloads and 551 video downloads. A total of 78 consultation responses have been received to date.
10. We have taken part in a number of meetings with regional and other osteopathic groups to explain our proposals and to obtain feedback. Over the course of the consultation (February to May 2015), 17 of these meetings are scheduled. Total attendance at the meetings to date has been approximately 350.
11. In addition, the Institute of Osteopathy arranged a live 'webinar' on 6 May for osteopaths who have been unable to attend regional meetings.
12. The consultation formally closes at the end of May.

PII Rules

13. The General Osteopathic Council (Indemnity Arrangements) Rules Order of Council 2015, made by Council at its last meeting, came in force on 1 May 2015.

Review of PSA Performance Review process

14. As previously reported to Council, the PSA is undertaking a review of the annual Performance Review process. As part of that, each Council was invited to send a member of its Audit Committee to discuss the proposals with the PSA; Mark Eames attended the meeting on the GOSC's behalf.
15. The PSA has not yet issued its proposals for consultation but, broadly speaking, we expect that the new Performance Review will take a more risk-based approach, based on the past performance of regulators, and that there will be an ongoing requirement to provide a wider range of data to the PSA in order to seek to identify performance trends.

NCOR

16. NCOR has now completed three years under its new funding arrangements and with the delivery contract held by Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) under the leadership of Dr Dawn Carnes. Dr Carnes has confirmed that she wishes to continue as Director of NCOR for a further three years.
17. As NCOR is now an independent charity, the contract with QMUL has now transferred from the GOsC to NCOR and NCOR will no longer be recognised as a 'JANE' within the GOsC accounts.
18. NCOR funding continues to be provided by all of the NCOR stakeholders, which includes a generous award of £100,000 over the next three years from the Osteopathic Educational Foundation. NCOR has also commenced its own fundraising from the profession in the UK and overseas and is seeking in the first instance to raise £30,000 to undertake a systematic review of manual therapy in the care of children and babies.

Quality assurance services procurement

19. The Invitation to Tender (ITT) stage of the education quality assurance procurement has been completed and the contract has been awarded to the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA). We are now in the process of finalising the contract for this work. We are pleased to be able to continue this partnership with the QAA for the quality assurance of osteopathic education.

PSA Academic and Research Conference 2015

20. Presentations from Fiona Browne (jointly with Professor Gerry McGivern) on our effectiveness of regulation research and from Brigid Tucker, on our common classification of complaints, were well-received at the PSA research conference in February.

Staffing changes

21. We have welcomed the following new staff to the GOsC since the last meeting of Council:
 - Shaleen McCormack, Head of Regulation
 - Dr Stacey Clift, Professional Standards Officer

Other meetings

22. Recent meetings, calls, visits and speaking engagements by the Chief Executive and others include:
 - European Federation of Osteopaths AGM, Brussels

- UK Inter Professional Group
- Reigate and Redhill Osteopaths
- Osteopathic Development Group Board
- South Wales Osteopathic Society
- SIOM/NESCOT Graduation Ceremony
- Kent and Sussex Osteopaths Groups
- The Open University (Leadership Development Project)
- NHS England (re prescribing and commissioning)
- GMC Annual Regulation Conference
- Waltham Forest Osteopathic Group
- Oxford Osteopathic Network
- BBENSCH osteopaths group
- Legal Assessor Training
- East Midlands Osteopath CPD group
- Induction for Martin Owen (Audit Committee)
- SMT and Council Strategy days
- Bristol Osteopathic Society
- Registration Assessor training day
- Central Sussex Osteopaths
- London Osteopathic Society
- Institute of Osteopathy CPD webinar
- Wessex Groups of Osteopaths
- Worcester Group
- Northern Cumbria and Northumberland Osteopaths Group
- Cambridgeshire Osteopathic Group
- Sutherland Cranial College Faculty Weekend
- Scottish Government Regulators' Liaison Group
- Final year student meetings at all OEIs
- Joint regulators event, Welsh Assembly.

Progress against the 2014-15 Business Plan

23. Annex A sets out the progress made against the 2015-16 Business Plan at the end of April 2015.
24. Obviously, so early in the year there is relatively little to report and to date there are no obvious areas of slippage.

Financial report

25. Annex B shows the unaudited financial position at the end of the fourth quarter of the 2014-15 financial year. The audited accounts will be presented to Council at its July meeting.
26. Figures for the first month of 2015-16 were not available at the date of dispatch of papers.

Risk Register

27. The latest version of the Risk Register, as presented to the Audit Committee on 24 March 2015, is attached at Annex C for information.
28. Since this was last reviewed by Council, the major changes have been around the identification of a new risk around clinical responsibility during international registration assessments (1.2) and the potential need for new secondary legislation for the new CPD scheme (1.4).

Recommendation: to note the report.