

GENERAL OSTEOPATHIC COUNCIL

Minutes of Part I of the 58th meeting of the Education Committee (EdC) which took place after the Part II EdC meeting on Tuesday 15 December 2009 at Osteopathy House, 176 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1 3LU.

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Chair: Professor Ian Hughes

Present: Paula Cook Professor Adrian Eddleston
 Rob McCoy Liam Stapleton
 Professor Julie Stone

In Attendance: Evlynne Gilvarry, Chief Executive & Registrar (until 15.50hrs)
 Fiona Browne, Head of Professional Standards (from 15.15hrs)
 Marcus Dye, Professional Standards Manager
 Joy Winyard, Professional Standards Officer
 Monika Bojczuk – Obara, Professional Standards Assistant

PART I (*items which will be reported to the Public Session of Council at its next meeting*)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Apologies were received from Jane Fox, Nicholas Hounsfeld and Bernadette Griffin. Fiona Browne would also be joining the meeting later.
2. No vested interests were declared by the members for any of the items on the agenda.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

3. Under the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) Commission on Advanced Practice, paragraph 9 was amended to add "A possible model for differentiating...", and at the CHRE Commission on Clear Sexual Boundaries section, paragraph 14 was amended to read "...as she had significantly contributed to the writing of the report.". After these amendments were made, the Committee was content to agree the minutes as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

4. A request was made for a report on the Council strategy day. It was explained that the outcomes from the strategy day had resulted in the formulation of the Corporate Plan, which was about to be published on the GOsC website. Steps would be taken to ensure that Education Committee Members who were not members of Council would receive a copy of the Plan.

CHAIR AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS MANAGER'S ACTION AND REPORT

5. The Chair had nothing additional to report. The Professional Standards Manager presented a departmental report and then informed the Committee about the recent Research Strategy Working Group (RSWG) meeting, held on 2 December 2009, where it was agreed to publish an invitation to tender for proposals addressing an evaluation and costs, benefits and risks analysis of the draft revalidation scheme. This would be circulated to the Committee members.
6. The Professional Standards Manager also reported on a recent meeting with the International Journal of Osteopathic Medicine (IJOM), where circulation figures and impact ratings for the journal were discussed. This information would be used by the RSWG to consider the future of the publication. The Committee noted the report.

FEEDBACK FROM FITNESS TO PRACTISE

7. The Regulation Manager joined the meeting to present this paper on proposals on the mechanism to inform Education Committee of issues and trends that arise from the investigation and prosecution of cases within the GOsC's fitness to practise procedures.
8. It was suggested that feedback is provided once a year to report on any identifiable trends or difficulties in interpreting competencies. It was felt that waiting once a year may not be sufficient and that panel Chairs should be charged to bring to the Education Committee attention immediately possible trends or problems that had been identified and which might need earlier attention.
9. There was a brief discussion on how to capture problems identified by patients, and the Regulation Manager explained that there was already a logging system in place. It was stated that a group had created a classification system just for osteopaths which would be able to map identified problems more appropriately.
10. It was suggested that information should be gathered from similar health care professions such as chiropractors to see if there were any similar trends.
11. The Committee agreed that it would receive Fitness to Practise Reports as proposed and including the suggestions above.

CHRE COMMISSION ON CLEAR SEXUAL BOUNDARIES – EDUCATION

12. The Head of Professional Standards informed the Committee about how the GOsC had disseminated this report to the profession, the OEIs and fitness to practise panels. The report aimed at professionals was published in The Osteopath, the Education report was circulated to the OEIs and the Fitness to Practise report was sent to the FTP panels.
13. It was suggested that as a way to try and influence osteopaths to stop making these types of mistakes that the GOsCs video be shown at all future conferences. It was confirmed that the video has been offered to all the OEIs to be shown to their students

and at least three schools have taken advantage of this offer. There was also a suggestion that the Principals of the schools should be made aware of the prevalence of this issue and be strongly encouraged to provide the video to their students.

14. Professor Stone explained that she had in the past presented on sexual boundary issues at the request of various bodies who wished to draw on the expertise she had acquired in compiling a report on the issue for the CHRE. She offered to make this expertise available to the OEIs. It was agreed that, should this offer be taken up, the expertise would be made available to all OEIs at a meeting convened by the GOsC. And, to avoid any conflict of interest, Professor Stone accepted that this would be on a no-fee basis. It was agreed to add this issue to the next OEI meeting agenda in March 2010.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15. None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

16. Thursday 18 March at 2.00pm.