

**GENERAL OSTEOPATHIC COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Part I of the 59th meeting of the Education Committee (EdC) which took place after the Part II EdC meeting on Thursday 18 March 2010 at The Society of Chiropractors & Podiatrists, 1 Fellmonger's Path, Tower Bridge Road, London, SE1 3LY.**

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Chair: Professor Ian Hughes

Present: Miss Paula Cook                                    Mr Robert McCoy  
            Professor Adrian Eddleston                 Mr Liam Stapleton  
            Dr Jane Fox    Professor Julie Stone

In Attendance: Evlynne Gilvarry, Chief Executive & Registrar (until 15.00hrs)  
                    Fiona Browne, Head of Professional Standards  
                    Joy Winyard, Professional Standards Officer

**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 Nicholas Hounsfeld, Bernadette Griffin and Marcus Dye.
2. No vested interests were declared by the members for any of the items on the agenda.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

3. No amendments were suggested and the minutes were accepted as a true record of the December meeting.

**MATTERS ARISING**

4. Julie Stone requested that paragraph 8 of the minutes be very clear that whilst she is more than happy to speak to the Osteopathic Educational Institutions (OEs) she did not want it to appear that she was trying to generate business. After a short discussion it was decided that, to avoid any perceived conflict of interest, Julie Stone would withdraw her offer of giving a presentation to the OEs.

**CHAIR AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DEPARTMENT ACTION AND REPORT**

5. The Chair had nothing additional to report. The Head of Professional Standards

presented a departmental report which included an update on a meeting held with the Health Professions Council (HPC). The meeting was to discuss progress with both Councils' revalidation procedures. The Committee members were concerned that the HPC were still considering whether to implement a revalidation scheme, and felt this may jar with osteopaths who have been advised that there is no choice in the matter. The Chief Executive & Registrar confirmed that all the other Healthcare Regulators were going ahead with the scheme and had asked the Department of Health to reinforce this message to the HPC.

### **LAY OBSERVERS**

6. The Head of Professional Standards presented the paper, proposing the discontinuance of the Lay Observer role. The need to consult with the OEIs had been recognised, and it had been intended that the proposal be discussed at the recent OEI meeting but unfortunately that had not happened and subsequent communications were unclear. Therefore, the Committee were asked to agree to the proposal in principal, to be revisited at the June meeting after consultation with the OEIs in May.
7. After some discussion it was decided that the OEI opinion would be canvassed by email, and if no response or objection was raised, Chairs action would be used to dispense with the Lay Observer role immediately.

### **GCC CONSULTATION**

8. The Head of Professional Standards presented the GOsC's response to the GCC's consultation on a revised version of its Degree Recognition criteria.
9. The Committee enquired whether there were two versions of the document as the response section seemed to include comments on both osteopathy and chiropractic. It was then decided that the amended draft document be emailed out to Committee members for their agreement.
10. The Committee also wanted to commend Marcus Dye, the Professional Standards Manager, on the research into and preparation of the document and the identification of some philosophical questions.

### **REVIEW OF STANDARD OF PROFICIENCY AND CODE OF PRACTICE**

11. The Committee noted the progress made on the revision of the tandards of proficiency and the Code of Practice outlined in the report.

### **REVIEW OF ANNUAL REPORTS**

12. The Head of Professional Standards presented the report, which outlined the planned process for reviewing the Annual Reports provided to the GOsC each year by the OEIs.
13. The paper included some of the benefits and challenges of completing the Annual Reports as advised by the OEIs and this will be fed back into the revised framework.

14. The Committee agreed to endorse the planned review of the annual reports.

### **GOSC POLICY FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE**

15. The Head of Professional Standards presented the report, and asked the Committee to consider a policy statement for recommendation to Council.
16. After some discussion, it was decided to amend three of the *Statutory responsibilities of the GOSc* to read as follows:
  - a. 'The GOSc may visit osteopathic educational institutions (OEs) to ensure that pre-registration training meets the standards we set.'
  - b. 'The GOSc may also impose conditions on the course to ensure standards continue to be met.' and
  - c. 'The GOSc holds a list of qualifications offered by the OEI and has the power to add and remove courses from the list.'
17. The Committee then amended the wording of the second bullet point in the *Aims of the GOSc Quality Assurance* to read 'Make sure graduates meet the outcomes of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Osteopathy Subject Benchmark Statement' and to move the final bullet point to the first position and amend the wording to read as 'Put patient safety and public protection at the heart of all activities'. The Committee also decided that the penultimate bullet point 'Promote equality and diversity in osteopathic education' would need to be strengthened.

### **NCOR ADVERSE EVENTS PROJECTS**

18. The Head of Professional Standards drew the Committees attention to the first publication from the NCOR Adverse Events research. The Committee noted the contents of the report.

### **HEALTHCARE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

19. The Head of Professional Standards presented the report. It was commissioned by the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) and considers the health professional regulators' role in healthcare for people with disabilities.
20. The Committee had a brief discussion on the provision of osteopathic treatment for patients suffering from mental health issues, and whether this was sufficiently provided for in the OEs. This will be noted and taken into account again when considering the development of the pre-registration curriculum content. The Committee also noted that it was not always immediately apparent whether a patient has or has had mental health issues and that there had been no significant increase in complaints against osteopaths involving such patients.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

21. None

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

22. Tuesday 15 June 2010 at 2.00pm. The Committee members were also reminded the next Revalidation Standards Assessment Group meeting will be held at 10.00am that morning.