

**GENERAL OSTEOPATHIC COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Part I of the 65th meeting of the Education Committee (EdC)**  
**which took place on Thursday 22 September 2011 at**  
**Osteopathy House, 176 Tower Bridge Road,**  
**London SE1 3LU**

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Chair: Professor Ian Hughes

Present: Professor Adrian Eddleston  
 Professor Bernadette Griffin  
 Mr Jonathan Hearsey  
 Mr Robert McCoy  
 Mr Brian McKenna  
 Mr Liam Stapleton  
 Ms Fiona Walsh

In Attendance: Mr Tim Walker, Chief Executive and Registrar  
 Ms Fiona Browne, Head of Professional Standards  
 Mr Marcus Dye, Professional Standards Manager  
 Ms Joy Bolt, Professional Standards Officer

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

**ITEM 1: APOLOGIES AND INTERESTS**

1. Apologies were received from Dr Jane Fox and Ms Julie Stone. Ms Stone had submitted written comments on the papers and these would be read into the discussion by the Chair at the appropriate points.
2. Members were requested to advise of any interests held at the time when the item was to be discussed.

**ITEM 2: MINUTES**

3. The Committee made the following amendments to the Minutes:
  - Mr Tim Walker to be added to the list of attendees.
  - Paragraph 17 on page 5 should be amended to read that the 'new OPS will take effect 1 September 2012', not 2011 as stated.

**Agreed: The Education Committee agreed the Minutes of the Education Committee held on 14 June 2011 subject to the amendments listed above.**

### **ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING**

4. No matters arising from the last meeting were raised.

### **ITEM 4: CHAIR AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DEPARTMENT ACTION AND REPORT**

5. The Chair had no further comments to make. The Head of Professional Standards presented the department report. It was confirmed Ms Stone had requested that, following the Healthcare Education England Seminar on 26 September 2011, any update on the Government's plans be shared at the next Council meeting.
6. The members had no additional comments to make.

**Noted: The Committee noted the report.**

### **ITEM 5: QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEW**

7. The Professional Standards Manager presented the paper concerning the review of quality assurance procedures used for osteopathy education by the General Osteopathic Council.
8. The Committee was presented with a chart containing an update on all the issues identified and an explanation of how they had been dealt with. For those issues that had not yet been completed, an explanation of when this could be expected was given.

**Agreed: The Committee agreed that the purpose of the preliminary quality assurance review has been met and that the review is therefore concluded.**

**Noted: The Committee noted that further work will be undertaken as part of a more fundamental quality assurance review and as part of our own focus on continuing improvement of processes.**

### **ITEM 6: STUDENT FITNESS TO PRACTISE UPDATE**

9. The Head of Professional Standards presented the paper on the progress of the Student Fitness to Practise guidelines. It was explained that while only 10 written responses were received to the consultation document, they were from a variety of stakeholders and were all very positive and supportive of guidance for both the students and the Osteopathic Educational Institutions (OEIs). The seminars had also demonstrated support for the guidance.

10. It was recognised that the need for such guidance had been recommended by the CHRE and supported mechanisms in place at the OEIs.
11. The Guidance has since been amended to take into account the comments made, and Ms Stone had also provided some drafting amendments which would also be incorporated.

**Agreed: The Committee agreed to recommend that Council agrees to publish the consultation analysis and response, *Guidance about Professional Behaviours and Fitness to Practise for Osteopathic Students and Student Fitness to Practise: Guidance for Osteopathic Educational Institutions***

**Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Student Fitness to Practise Working Group should be convened to further consider issues of implementation and evaluation.**

12. The Committee then had a brief discussion on the plans to pilot an e-learning tool to explore the development of professionalism. While it was agreed that it was a worthwhile exercise, there was debate over whether it fell within the remit of the GOsC or should be taken up by another body such as the BOA or the OEIs.
13. It was agreed that a key role for the regulator was to promote professionalism, and in the absence of another body carrying the work forward, it would fall to the GOsC to undertake it.
14. It was also agreed that an e-learning tool would be able to reach many more people than face-to-face meetings could, and while it may be expensive to maintain, once developed, it did not mean the GOsC were committed to it and could encourage others to take over.
15. The Committee noted that the piloting plans would help to explore all these issues in a way that involved no commitment, a minimal cost (less than £1000 for the profession as a whole and a couple of hundred pounds for students only) but many potential benefits both for students and the profession as a whole both in the short and long term. This would be explored as part of the development of the Osteopathic Practice Standards implementation.

**Noted: The Committee noted the plans to discuss piloting a proposed e-learning tool to explore the development of professionalism, subject to discussions with OEIs.**

16. The Committee then considered the guidance about the management of health and disability for both students and OEIs. The Committee comments on the documents included: 'outstandingly brilliant' and 'the case studies were useful and informative'. It was felt that the documents would be very helpful to both students and OEIs.

17. It was confirmed that the Committee were only reviewing the text and that the finished document would be in a different format.

**Agreed: The Committee agreed to recommend that Council agrees to publish *Osteopathic Education and Training: Guidance for Applicants and Students with a Disability or Health Impairment* and *Students with a disability or health impairment: Guidance for Osteopathic Education Institutions*.**

#### **ITEM 7: PREPAREDNESS TO PRACTISE UPDATE**

18. The Head of Professional Standards presented the paper which gave an update on the progress of the preparedness to practise research.
19. It was confirmed that Professor Della Freeth and her team from Queen Mary University of London, attended a meeting of the Research Strategy Working Group (RSWG) on 12 September to present their initial findings to the Working Group, representatives of the OEIs, newly qualified osteopaths and those working with newly qualified osteopaths who were also invited to the meeting.
20. The findings presented were very much as expected, however the findings were based on evidence rather than supposition or anecdotes. Indeed it was noted that much feedback about the preparation of osteopaths was very positive and might provide information of use to other healthcare professions. It is expected that the findings will be published in academic journals outside osteopathy which would be positive for osteopathy.
21. It was confirmed that once the research was concluded – towards the end of the year – the final report would be published both within and outside osteopathic publications.

**Noted: The Committee noted the progress of the research project.**

#### **ITEM 8: COUNCIL FOR HEALTHCARE REGULATORY EXCELLENCE (CHRE) REPORT – PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

22. The Head of Professional Standards presented the paper which set out how the recommendations of the CHRE Performance Review, as they apply to the work of the Education Committee, are being implemented.
23. The CHRE published its report in the summer, and it was confirmed that there were a few issues that the GOsC would have to follow up on, and they were presented to the Committee in a brief chart.
24. The Committee noted the issues raised and the action plan proposed to follow them up to conclusion.

**Noted: The Committee noted the progress on issues highlighted by CHRE in the 2010-11 Performance Review.**

**ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

25. No further matters were raised.

**ITEM 10: DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

26. The date for the next meeting will be Thursday 15 December 2011.