



**Education and Registration Standards Committee**

**25 June 2014**

**Education and Registration Standards Committee Annual Report**

<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Purpose</b>	For decision
<b>Issue</b>	The Annual Report of the Education and Registration Standards Committee to Council.
<b>Recommendation</b>	To agree the Education and Registration Standards Committee Annual Report for 2013/2014.
<b>Financial and resourcing implications</b>	None arising from this report.
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b>	Equality and diversity issues have been taken account of in policy development and implementation.
<b>Communications implications</b>	None arising from this report.
<b>Annexes</b>	Annex A – Terms of Reference of the Education and Registration Standards Committee.  Annex B – Draft Annual Report of the Education and Registration Standards Committee 2013/2014.
<b>Author</b>	Fiona Browne

## **Background**

1. The Education and Registration Standards Committee provides an annual report about its work to Council each year.

## **Discussion**

### *Terms of reference*

2. The terms of reference of the Education and Registration Standards Committee are attached at Annex A. The terms of reference provide that the Committee will submit an annual report of its work to Council each year. This annual report will concentrate on the work undertaken by the Committee from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.
3. When considering the Annual Report, it may help the Committee to review the terms of reference so that the Committee can assure itself that it is meeting the expectations of Council. The terms of reference appear to have been fully addressed during the course of the year reported on.

### *Annual report*

4. The Annual Report of the Committee summarises the work undertaken by the Committee from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 and is attached at Annex B.

**Recommendation:** to agree the Education and Registration Standards Committee Annual Report for 2013/2014.

### Education and Registration Standards Committee (ERSC)

#### Terms of reference

The role of the Education and Registration Standards Committee is to contribute to the development of standards of osteopathic practice and to contribute to ensuring that only those appropriately qualified are able to register with the GOSC. To do this it will:

- a. Advise Council on all matters relating to pre-registration education and training of osteopaths, including the standards of osteopathic practice required for registration.
- b. Advise Council on the recognition of qualifications in accordance with section 14(6) of the Act.
- c. Appoint and manage the performance of visitors to conduct the evaluation of courses under section 12 of the Act.
- d. Advise Council on the standards required for initial registration and appropriate means for assessing those standards.
- e. Advise Council on matters relating to the withdrawal of recognition of a qualification in accordance with sections 16(1) and 18(5) of the Act.
- f. Exercise powers to require information from osteopathic educational institutions in connection with its statutory functions in accordance with section 18 of the Act.
- g. Monitor reports from fitness to practise panels and information from other relevant sources in developing policy on undergraduate education.
- h. Ensure that the views of the fitness to practise committees are incorporated into the work of the Committee where appropriate.
- i. Advise Council on any research needs to support the work of the Committee.
- j. Make an annual report for Council on the work of the Committee.

### **Annual Report of the Education and Registration Standards Committee April 2013-March 2014**

#### **Introduction**

1. The Education and Registration Standards Committee (the Committee) performs the role of the statutory Education Committee under the Osteopaths Act 1993. The Committee has a 'general duty of promoting high standards of education and training in osteopathy and keeping provision made for that training under review'. It also has a key role to give advice to the Council about educational matters including the recognition and withdrawal of 'recognised qualifications'. (See Section 11 of the Osteopaths Act 1993). The Committee also has a role to contribute to the development of standards of osteopathic practice and to contribute to ensuring that only those appropriately qualified are able to register with the GOsC.

#### **Summary of Activities since April 2013**

2. The Education Committee met three times during the period under review – in May 2013, September 2013, and February 2014. This report summarises the work of the Committee and includes decisions taken and actions recommended and progress on work overseen by the Committee. Full minutes of all the meetings have already been reported to the Council.

#### **Guidance on Osteopathic Pre-registration Education**

3. In May 2013, the Committee approved revised terms of reference for the Guidance for Pre-registration Education Working Group which included membership of the osteopathic educational institutions (OEIs), lay members, patients and students. The Committee also noted the progress of the group. In September 2013, the Committee discussed and agreed the consultation strategy and considered the draft guidance and consultation issues.
4. The draft Guidance was subsequently published for consultation following agreement by Council in January 2014 from February 2014 to May 2014.

#### **Quality Assurance**

##### *Major Quality Assurance Review*

5. During the 2013-14 year, the Committee oversaw the development of the major Quality Assurance review culminating in the production of a Quality Assurance Review Discussion Document.
6. Following the Committee's recommendation in 2012, that engagement with stakeholders should shape the issues for development; in September 2013, the Committee noted a considerable amount of engagement both with regulators, educational institutions and experts in quality assurance, and considered the emerging issues to shape the draft Quality Assurance Discussion Document

including thematic reviews, feedback from students, patients and staff, the standards framework, timing and review cycles.

7. In February 2014, the Committee recommended that Council publish the Quality Assurance Review Discussion Document for consultation.

### *Quality assurance of 'recognised qualifications'*

8. During the course of the year, the Education Committee advised Council that the following qualifications should be recognised or renewed based on Visitors Reports prepared by the QAA:
  - Renewal of the Masters in Osteopathy, Bachelors in Osteopathic Medicine and the Diploma in Osteopathy at the British College of Osteopathic Medicine from 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2018.
  - Renewal of the Bachelor of Science (Hons) Osteopathic Medicine and the Master of Osteopathic Medicine at the Surrey Institute of Osteopathic Medicine at the North East Surrey College of Technology from 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2018.
  - Renewal of the Master of Osteopathy and the Bachelor of Science (Hons) at the European School of Osteopathy from 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2019.
  - Renewal of the Master of Osteopathy and the Bachelor of Osteopathy (Hons) at the London School of Osteopathy from 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2019.
9. During the course of the year, as part of our active approach to advising the Council about the recognition of qualifications and ensuring standards, the Committee considered in relation to all OEIs the following:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>May 2013</b>	<b>September 2013</b>	<b>February 2013</b>
Agreement to RQ specifications	One OEI	None	None
Consideration of reports and evidence submitted in relation to general and specific conditions	One OEI	Four OEIs	Three OEIs
Consideration of annual report analysis (including	Ten OEIs	None	Ten OEIs

<b>Activity</b>	<b>May 2013</b>	<b>September 2013</b>	<b>February 2013</b>
external examiner reports and internal annual monitoring reports and information about student fitness to practise.)			

*Cessation of courses update*

- Two institutions have ceased to recruit to their osteopathic courses. The last graduates at Oxford Brookes are expected to graduate in 2016. The last graduates at Leeds Metropolitan University are expected to graduate in 2017. The Committee is monitoring the continuing maintenance of standards in these institutions through regular reports and updates on the closure plans.

*Evaluation of the quality assurance process*

- The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) collect feedback from those involved in the quality assurance process including educational institutions reviewed, QAA visitors and the review co-ordinators. Overall respondents felt that the review was fit for purpose with some saying that it seemed to work well in its present form. However there were some suggestions for improvement including further training on report writing and additional time for considering documentation,

**Professionalism and Student Fitness to Practise**

- In September 2013, the Committee noted the emerging findings from the professionalism research which explored views about lapses in professionalism amongst students and also noted the evaluation of the student fitness to practise guidance (including an analysis of the student fitness to practise findings reported by the OEIs). The Committee agreed a specification of the information to be provided by OEIs about student fitness to practise cases to ensure consistency and sufficient detail about cases reported to inform both registration decisions and policy development and implementation.

**Good character assessment framework**

- In September 2013, the Committee considered the development of the good character assessment framework to help to inform the process for making decisions about good character and decisions about the registration of applicants.

**Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS)**

14. In February 2014, the Committee noted an evaluation of the implementation of the Osteopathic Practice Standards. The purpose of the evaluation was to explore whether the implementation achieved three key aims namely:
  - Raising awareness of the OPS with all relevant stakeholders
  - Improving the quality of patient care through a greater understanding of the OPS and how standards apply to practice
  - Delivering a range of resources which are useful, accessible and used by a range of stakeholders
15. The evaluation used existing sources of data, for example, CPD submissions, feedback from e-learning modules, data about calls and emails to the GOsC and data from the revalidation pilot.
16. A series of recommendations were noted by the Committee and have been disseminated to staff to allow effective future implementation to be informed by this work.

### **Registration Assessor recruitment and appraisal**

17. In May 2013 and September 2013, the Committee received updates about the recruitment of additional registration assessors and return to practice reviewers to refresh and increase these pools of assessors. The Committee also received an update about the training for the assessors and the reviewers and the plans for piloting an appraisal system at the end of the 2013.

### **Period of Adaptation Guidance**

18. In May 2013, the Committee considered draft period of adaptation guidance and agreed to consult on the Guidance.
19. The Council subsequently agreed to publish the Guidance following consultation in January 2014.

### **Temporary and occasional registration**

20. In September 2013, the Committee considered a Position Statement about the definition of 'temporary and occasional' registration for the purposes of determining applications for registration. The Committee recommended that the Council approve the statement. The Committee also noted an internal explanatory factsheet about temporary and occasional registration for use by staff.

### **Registration appeals**

21. In May 2013, the Committee considered a range of policies and procedures for registration appeals. This included the establishment of a registration appeals

panel, drawn from Council, terms of reference for the panel, quorum and composition.

### **Registration applications from outside the EEA – Professional Standards Authority research**

22. The Committee considered a PSA Rapid Review entitled *Processes used by nine health and care professional regulatory bodies in the UK to register applicants trained and applying from outside of the European Economic Area (EEA)*. The report provided assurance that the GOsC processes for applications received outside the EEA are sound.

### **Registration Activity Report**

23. The Committee noted data presented about registration applications. This included:

- Numbers of new entrants to the register
- Numbers of removals from the register
- Reasons for voluntary removal
- Reasons for being registered as non-practising
- Number of registrants returning to practice
- Registration assessment activity.
- An evaluation of the training sessions for the registration assessors.

### **Fitness to practise case trends**

24. In September 2014, the Committee noted a paper containing detailed information about fitness to practise case trends from 1 January 2010 to 31 July 2013 to inform policy development for pre-registration education. The Committee also received information about the osteopathic complaints and claims classification data collection tool to enable data about complaints and claims to be collected in a more standardised way allowing for easier comparison.

### **Professional Standards Authority Performance Review**

25. In September 2013, the Committee noted the Professional Standards Authority Performance Review 2013. This included areas of strength and opportunities to learn from elsewhere which will be highlighted in our programme of work for 2013/2014.

### **Engagement**



26. During 2013-14, the Chair of the Education and Registration Standards Committee chaired four meetings with the OEIs and met regularly with the Chair and acting Chair of the Council of Osteopathic Educational Institutions. These meetings enabled the Education and Registration Standards Committee programme of work to be informed by OEIs and provided good opportunities keep the OEIs informed about external developments and to work in partnership to continually enhance the quality of osteopathic education for the benefit of patients and students.
27. A wide range of topics were discussed at the GOsC/OEI meetings including:
- Guidance about periods of adaptation
  - The Francis Inquiry
  - The work undertaken by the Comite European de Normalisation on osteopathic standards
  - 'Recognised Qualification' papers on the public Council agenda
  - The Osteopathic Practice Standards evaluation
  - The Quality Assurance review
  - Developing the profession
  - Registration, non-practising status and roles in education
  - Professionalism and student fitness to practice
  - Health Education England
  - Good practice seminar about 'cultural change – a seminar to share good practice'
  - Continuing fitness to practise: seminar
  - Final Clinical Competence Assessment
  - International Journal of Osteopathic Medicine
  - GCC Guidance about students as models
  - Involvement of patients and the public in osteopathic education
  - Law Commission Bill Update
  - Specification about the information to be provided to the GOsC when students graduate.

### Membership

28. During the period April 2013 to March 2014 the Education Committee membership comprised:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Member details</b>	<b>Dates of membership</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>
Professor Colin Coulson-Thomas (Chair)	Council lay member	All year	3 of 3
Ms Geraldine Campbell	Council lay member	1 April 2013 to 30 September 2013	2 of 2
Dr Jorge Esteves	Council registrant member	All year	3 of 3
Dr Jane Fox	External lay member	All year	3 of 3
Professor Bernadette Griffin	External lay member	All year	3 of 3
Mr Robert McCoy	External registrant member	All year	3 of 3
Mr Brian McKenna	Council registrant member	All year	3 of 3
Mr Liam Stapleton	External lay member	All year	2 of 3
Ms Alison White	Council lay member	All year	3 of 3

29. The Committee thanked Ms Geraldine Campbell for her service to the Education and Registration Standards Committee following her resignation from the Committee in September 2013.

30. The Committee welcomed Mr Mark Eames and Mr Kenneth McLean, Council members who observed the Committee at its meetings in May 2013 and September 2013 respectively.

*Cost of Education and Registration Standards Committee-related work*

31. It is estimated the costs of running the Education and Registration Standards Committee and its related activities, excluding staff time, is approximately £154k. This is calculated as follows:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Cost £</b>
Committee member: fees and expenses	6,626
Working groups (OEI)	1,608

## Annex B to 5

Quality assurance	114,476
Student fitness to practise	624
Transition research	1,102
Registration Assessors	28,091
Publications and subscriptions	1,967
<b>Total</b>	<b>154,494</b>