



**Education and Registration Standards Committee**

**18 June 2015**

**Quality Assurance: *Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy* update**

<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Purpose</b>	For noting
<b>Issue</b>	This paper provides an update about the review of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) <i>Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy</i> .
<b>Recommendation</b>	To note the development of the revision of the QAA <i>Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy</i> .
<b>Financial and resourcing implications</b>	None
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b>	None
<b>Communications implications</b>	None
<b>Annexes</b>	None
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## Background

1. The Education and Registration Standards Committee agreed and submitted its response to the consultation on the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) *Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy* in November 2014.
2. Following that phase of consultation the *Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy* has been updated and the document has been circulated for comment from additional readers across health professional organisations and higher education.
3. We have reviewed the current version of the draft *Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy* in light of the Committee's November 2014 consultation response. This paper provides an update on this review and on the next stages of the QAA *Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy* revision process.

## Discussion

4. Overall the comments and recommendations in the Committee's November 2014 consultation response are reflected in the current version of the draft *Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy*.
5. One key element of the Committee's November 2014 response was a headline mapping of the *Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy* to the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*. This alignment has been maintained in the new draft.
6. In some areas we note that amendments have been made to the draft document that reflect the Committee's comments to an extent but could perhaps be enhanced further. For instance, the theme of working in partnership with patients is now more evident than in the previous draft, but we think there is an opportunity to emphasise this further. We have reiterated such points to the QAA Working Group for its consideration. There are some matters of factual accuracy, for instance regarding the international context section, which we have also highlighted to the QAA Working Group.
7. The next QAA Working Group meeting is being held on 17 June 2015 and will consider the additional consultation feedback from all respondents and agree next steps. It is currently understood that the timetable is to publish the *Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy* in the summer 2015.
8. As noted to the Committee in March 2015, we intend to revisit the recommendation of the *Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education (GOPRE)* Working Group regarding the possible need for more explicit standards for the delivery of education, including assessment, when the *Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy* has been published.

**Recommendation:** to note the development of the revision of the QAA *Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy*.