



Osteopathic Practice Committee
18 June 2015
Committee Annual Report

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issue	The Annual Report of the Osteopathic Practice Committee to Council.
Recommendation	To agree the Osteopathic Practice Committee Annual Report to Council for 2014-15.
Financial and resourcing implications	None arising from this report.
Equality and diversity implications	Equality and diversity issues have been taken account of in policy development and implementation.
Communications implications	None arising from this report.
Annex	Terms of reference of the Osteopathic Practice Committee
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Summary

1. This paper sets out a review of the work of the Osteopathic Practice Committee (OPC) in the financial year 2014-15. The report is due to be considered by Council at its meeting on 16 July 2015.
2. The Terms of Reference of the OPC are annexed to this paper.

Review of work during the financial year 2014-15

3. The Osteopathic Practice Committee met three times during the period under review – in May 2014, September 2014, and February 2015. This report summarises the work of the Committee. Full minutes of all the meetings have already been reported to the Council.

Fitness to practise practice notes and guidance

4. The OPC considered on two draft practice notes and three guidance documents for fitness to practise committees:
 - a. PCC Practice Note on Acting in the Public Interest
 - b. PCC Practice Note on Admissibility of Character Evidence
 - c. Guidance for the Professional Conduct Committee on drafting determinations
 - d. Bank of Conditions for Health Committee
 - e. Guidance on Threshold Criteria for Unacceptable Professional Conduct.
5. The two practice notes drew heavily on existing case law and were drafted by leading Counsel. With the additional input of the OPC and of the Fitness to Practise Users' Forum, they were recommended to Council for approval without a requirement for public consultation.
6. The guidance on drafting determinations and the bank of conditions were considered in detail by the OPC and recommended to Council for public consultation.
7. The threshold criteria were a major piece of work for the OPC drawing on case law, the work of other regulators and that of the Law Commissions. The OPC recommended the criteria to Council for public consultation.

Professional indemnity insurance

8. Work that had been commenced in 2013-14 on professional indemnity insurance was completed in 2014-15. The OPC considered the feedback from public consultation on the principles behind the proposed new rules and the

mechanism for registrants to demonstrate compliance, recommending that Council agree the approach and consult on new rules.

Guidance for osteopaths

9. In 2013-14 the OPC considered guidance to registrants on patients' capacity to give consent. This was followed up in 2014-15 with the development of a number of scenario-based case studies to bring this complex legal guidance to life. The OPC provided input to draft scenarios and agreed they should be published for osteopaths' use.
10. The OPC commenced work on guidance for registrants with blood borne conditions which will be continued in 2015-16.

Continuing Professional Development

11. A substantial part of the work of the OPC continued to be around the development of the new CPD scheme and how it will be used to assure continuing fitness to practise.
12. Early in the year, the OPC considered the overall model proposed for CPD as well as the draft CPD guidelines and draft peer discussion review guidelines. At a later meeting the OPC also considered the draft consultation documents and consultation strategy before recommending these to Council.
13. As well as the work on the development of the new CPD scheme, the OPC also considered a proposal from the Executive for a review of the 'state of CPD'. The aim of this work, which will continue through 2015-16 is to evaluate the breadth and depth of osteopathic CPD to provide a better understanding of current CPD and to provide a baseline for the evaluation of the new CPD scheme.

Standards development

14. Work commenced during 2014-15 looking at professional values in osteopathy. Working with Professor Bill Fulford and Professor Stephen Tyreman, a seminar was held exploring professional values. This work, which was reported to the OPC, will inform the development of the next version of the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*.
15. Another piece of standards development work has been in relation to the professional duty of candour. A joint statement was agreed between the regulators on candour and this was shared with the OPC. Work is continuing into 2015-16 on how this can be reflected in and around the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*.
16. The OPC also considered the work on values and other aspects of our standards to inform initial thinking on the scope of the anticipated review of the *Osteopathic Practice Standards* to take place over the next two years.

Research

17. The OPC considered three research activities during the course of the year:

- a. Progress with Professor Gerry McGivern's research on the effectiveness of regulation.
- b. An analysis of data by NCOR from the project on the common classification of complaints, claims and concerns raised about osteopaths.
- c. Feedback from complainants and registrants who have been involved in the fitness to practise process.

Membership

18. During the period April 2014 to March 2014 the Osteopathic Practice Committee membership comprised:

Name	Member details	Dates of membership	Meetings attended
Jonathan Hearsey (Chair from July 2014)	Council registrant member	All year	2/3
Julie Stone (Chair until July 2014)	Council lay member	All year	3/3
Dr Jane Fox	External lay member	All year	3/3
Kenneth McLean	Council registrant member	From July 2014	2/2
Manoj Mehta	External registrant member	All year	2/3
Haidar Ramadan	Council registrant member	Until July 2014	1/1
Alison White	Council lay member	All year	3/3
Jenny White	Council lay member	All year	3/3

Cost of Osteopathic Practice Committee-related work

19. It is estimated the costs of running the Osteopathic Practice Committee and its related activities, excluding staff time, is approximately £107k. This is calculated as follows:

Activity	Cost £
Committee member: fees and expenses	3,389
Research into effectiveness of regulation	71,778
Continuing fitness to practise framework	28,947
Values seminar	1,165
Osteopathic Practice Standards	71
Publications and subscriptions	1,512
Total	106,862

Recommendation: to agree the Osteopathic Practice Committee Annual Report to Council for 2014-15.

Osteopathic Practice Committee (OPC) Terms of reference

The role of the Osteopathic Practice Committee is to contribute to the development of: standards of osteopathic practice; policies aimed at ensuring registrants remain fit to practise; and policies relating to fitness to practise procedures. To do this it will:

- a. Advise Council on all matters relating to standards of osteopathic practice including, where appropriate, post-registration education and training, and the requirements for continuing professional development under Section 17 of the Act and any other matters relating to the continuing fitness to practise of registrants (including revalidation).
- b. Advise Council on appropriate means for ensuring osteopaths remain fit to practise including the requirements for: annual re-registration; assessment of applications before returning to practise; and revalidation.
- c. Advise Council on any questions of policy relating to the management, investigation and adjudication of concerns about the fitness to practise of registrants.
- d. Take into account the decisions of fitness to practise, information from the PSA and other relevant sources, and external legal or other requirements in developing policy on professional practice.
- e. Ensure that the views of the fitness to practise committees are incorporated into the work of the Committee where appropriate.
- f. Consider and assist in the development and/or revision of documents published on behalf of fitness to practise committee and of legislation governing fitness to practise procedure.
- g. Advise Council on matters relating to the exercise of powers under Section 32 of the Osteopaths Act (protection of title).
- h. Advise Council on measures to encourage research and research dissemination within the osteopathic profession.
- 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.