



Policy and Education Committee

6 June 2024

Annual report of the Policy and Education Committee 2023-24

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issue	The Annual Report of the Policy and Education Committee which will be presented to Council in July 2024.
Recommendation	To agree the Policy and Education Committee Annual Report to Council for 2023-24
Financial and resourcing implications	The cost of the Committee is included in the budgets approved by Council.
Equality and diversity implications	The Committee considers equality and diversity implications in relation to the workstreams presented before it at each meeting.
Communications implications	This report is made to Council to summarise the work of the Committee from April 2023 to March 2024.
Annex	Policy and Education Committee Terms of Reference
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Annual Report of the Policy and Education Committee 2023-24

Introduction

1. The role of the Policy and Education Committee is to contribute to the development of Council policy across the breadth of its work including in education, professional standards, registration and fitness to practise.
2. 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 in giving advice to the Council about educational matters including the recognition and withdrawal of 'recognised qualifications' (see Sections 11 to 16 of the [Osteopaths Act 1993](#)).
3. The terms of reference of the Committee can be found at the end of the report at the annex.

Membership

4. The Committee consists of five members of Council and four appointed external members. In addition, the key osteopathic sector organisations are invited to send an observer with speaking rights to each meeting. Observers may not take part in any part of the meeting where the business is that reserved to the statutory Education Committee.
5. These observer with speaking rights members are:
 - the Council of Osteopathic Education Institutions (COEI)
 - the Institute of Osteopathy (iO)
 - the National Council for Osteopathic Research (NCOR)
 - the Osteopathic Alliance (OA)
6. Whilst specifications for visits and visit reports are considered in public, other matters related to educational institutions are considered in private due to the commercial nature of the osteopathic educational institutions.

Quality assurance of 'recognised qualifications'

7. During the year, as part of its role to assure the quality of osteopathic recognised qualifications and to offer advice to Council about the recognition of qualifications, the Committee considered the following:

Activity	2023-2023
Consideration of RQ specifications / appointment of Visitors	Six OEIs
Consideration of Education Visitor RQ reports (including new RQs, renewal of RQs and monitoring visits)	Two OEIs

Activity	2023-2023
RQ change notifications and consideration of reports and evidence submitted in relation to general and specific conditions or annual report follow ups	Seven OEIs
Consideration of annual report analyses (including external examiner and internal annual monitoring reports, and information about student fitness to practise.)	Seven OEIs
Recommendation of withdrawal of RQ	No OEIs

Quality Assurance: Annual Report and themes

8. The Committee considered the overall annual report analysis themes arising in the sector and noted further work to be undertaken on responses to recommendations and reflection in an annual report.

Continuing improvement of the Quality Assurance process

9. The Committee reviewed a lessons learned report arising from one RQ visit and considered and provided feedback on the issues identified arising the analysis and potential next steps.

Quality Assurance Services from 2025

10. The Committee considered requirements for quality assurance services from 2025 as the existing contract must end in June 2025 as part of usual procurement arrangements.

Workforce issues: recruitment and retention and our regulatory responses

11. The Committee considered the role of GOsC and the strategic response to the workforce issues outlined in the paper ahead of consideration by Council.

Student fitness to practise guidance

12. The Committee agreed to recommend to Council the publication of the Guidance about professional behaviours and student fitness to practise in osteopathic education, for consultation in accordance with the strategy outlined and noted the Equality Impact Assessment.

Guidance on the Management of Health and Disability for students and osteopathic educational institutions

13. The Committee considered and noted the engagement undertaken to update the draft guidance documents and noted the intention to enhance accessibility of the documents ahead of consultation.

Recognition of professional qualifications

14. The Committee considered the informative paper about the international recognition of professional qualifications post Brexit. The Committee agreed the

approach to further exploration of the issues arising from changes to the international environment in relation to recognition of professional qualifications and the GOsC's regulatory response. This was to be considered by Council.

Quality Assurance – Annual Report template 2022-23

15. The Committee agreed the annual report template for 2021-2022, including the updated educator data collection proposals and the enhancements to the reflective examples.
16. The Committee agreed the plans outlined in relation to the enhancement of quality assurance through further quality assurance workshops and the development of proposals for a more thematic approach for 2023-24.

Transition into practice

17. The Committee considered the Transition into Practice Research Report which explored enablers and barriers to the transition into practice. The research had been undertaken with new graduates and larger osteopathic practices. The Committee recommended that further work be undertaken to test the findings with wider sector stakeholders ahead of further recommendations being developed.

Duty of Candour: Research report on workshop with patients conducted for the GCC and the GOsC

18. The Committee considered the report findings and implications and the proposed GOsC response to the Duty of Candour Report. The Committee agreed to recommend the publication of the report.

Patients

Strategic Patient Engagement

19. The Committee reflected on options for different models of strategic patient engagement with a diverse range of perspectives. The Committee recommended that Council consider the proposed models taking into account the discussion and elements raised by the members of the Committee.

Patient and public involvement in Osteopathic Education – thematic review

20. The Committee considered research undertaken to enhance meaningful patient engagement in osteopathic education through collaboration with OEIs to identify good practice in the sector, identifying barriers and enablers to involving patients in osteopathic education and share the learning with institutions. The Committee The Committee agreed to recommend to Council that the report be published and consider next steps.

Independent Evaluation of GOsC Resources to support shared decision making

21. The Committee received a presentation from Professor Dawn Carnes on the key findings from the independent evaluation of the GOsC resources to support shared decision making. Key findings included:
- That Registrant awareness of the GOsC resources could be improved
 - The GOsC resources were used adequately and appropriately
 - Adopting and integrating the resources into everyday practice requires additional motivation
 - The resources promoted more patient-centredness
 - The osteopaths generally lacked awareness about shared decision-making; they lacked confidence in discussing treatments beyond osteopathic treatment
 - Patients found the resources very informative and useful and felt that their 'voice' was heard
 - The patients felt respected and understood
22. The Committee provided feedback on the findings ahead of the final report being presented to Council including the importance of support to implement the Osteopathic Practice Standards.

Patient engagement progress update

23. The Committee considered an evaluation and update report about our patient engagement work.

Public and patient perceptions report

24. The Committee considered the draft Public and Patient Perceptions Report (2023) undertaken by Yougov. The report was a tracking survey and was first conducted in 2014 and then again in 2018. The Committee provided feedback on the report ahead of it being considered by Council for publication. The Committee agreed to recommend to Council that this findings report be published.

Registrant and Stakeholder Perceptions Survey update

25. The Committee monitored the progress of the appointment of the organisation to undertake the Registrant and Stakeholder Perceptions Survey

Data collection and insight and equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI)

26. The Committee considered and provided feedback the paper exploring collection, collation, analysis, and understanding of equality, diversity, and inclusion data in relation to our fitness to practise proceedings for both registrants and complainants.

Boundaries Project

27. The Committee reflected on a paper that outlined thoughts on how the GOsC might have a greater impact on establishing and maintaining safe professional boundaries over time in the profession as ongoing initiatives were not driving down persistent concerns about boundaries. The explored the use of the Behaviour Change Wheel method. A gap was also identified in the current implementation strategy related to the impact of breaches of boundaries on osteopaths and patients and is informing the development of a story to begin reflection on how the story might be shared in a variety of ways to support osteopaths. The Committee considered and provided feedback on the contents of the paper to inform future thinking about understanding the challenges and developing sector-based approaches to support the establishment and maintenance of safe professional boundaries.

GOsC Values

28. The Committee considered and reflected on the GOsC Values of being:

- Collaborative
- Influential
- Respectful and
- Evidence informed

29. The Committee agreed with the Chief Executive's observations that the Committee's discussions were an example of the values being part of the considerations and thinking of members and participants and it was hoped that in moving forward the values would continue to be built on.

Consultation on GOsC Strategy: Towards 2030

30. The Committee noted the GOsC consultation on its Strategy: Towards 2030.

Committee Development Day

31. The Committee undertook a development day. The objectives of the day were:

- Reflecting on our purpose as a Committee – how do the terms of reference align in terms of our purpose.
- How can we know if we are fulfilling our purpose and doing well? What are the criteria for going well?
- How do we approach our work? We have a whole range of experience. We have a collective memory of PEC, of GOsC, the osteopathic sector and others. It is a time of change and evolution. How do we draw on all of this to move forward?

32. The day included a very positive and productive session with Shane Carmichael from Kaleidoscope to support the Committee on preparing for the future.

Conclusion of Terms

33. The Committee thanked Professor Deborah Bowman, Sarah Botterill and Elizabeth Elander for their service to the Policy and Education Committee.

Membership

34. During the period April 2023 to March 2023 the Policy and Education Committee membership comprised:

Name	Member details	Meetings attended (including Development Day)
Daniel Bailey	Council registrant member	4 / 4
Sarah Botterill	Council lay member	2 / 4
Professor Deborah Bowman (Chair)	Council lay member	4 / 4
Dr Marvelle Brown	External lay member	1 / 4
Bob Davies	External registrant member	3 / 4
Simeon London	Council registrant member	3 / 4
Professor Patricia McClure	Council lay member (from 1 July 2022)	4 / 4
Professor Raymond Playford	External lay member	4 / 4
Nick Woodhead	External registrant member	4 / 4

35. Observers with speaking rights attended public meetings:

Name	Meetings attended
The Council for Osteopathic Education Institutions	3/3
The Institute of Osteopathy	2/3
The National Council for Osteopathic Research	3/3
The Osteopathic Alliance	3/3

Recommendation: to agree the Policy Advisory Committee Annual Report to Council for 2022-23

Terms of reference and membership of the Policy and Education Committee

The role of the Policy and Education Committee is to contribute to the development of Council policy. To do this it will:

- a. Advise Council on all matters of policy including:
 - i. The standards required for initial registration and appropriate means for assessing those standards.
 - ii. On all matters relating to pre-registration education and training of osteopaths, including the standards of osteopathic practice required for registration.
 - iii. Post-registration education and training, including the requirements for ensuring osteopaths remain fit to practise.
 - iv. The management, investigation and adjudication of concerns about the fitness to practise of registrants.
 - v. Matters relating to the exercise of powers under section 32 of the act (protection of title).
 - vi. The development of the osteopathic profession.
 - vii. Measures to encourage research and research dissemination within the osteopathic profession.
 - viii. Any research needs to support the GOsC's work.
- b. Take into account the decisions of fitness to practise committees, information from the PSA and other relevant sources, and external legal or other requirements.
- c. Ensure that policy development has been informed by effective engagement with the full range of the GOsC's stakeholders.
- d. Make an annual report for Council on the work of the Committee.

The Committee will also undertake the statutory functions that are reserved to the Education Committee, which are to:

- a. Advise Council on the recognition of qualifications in accordance with section 14(6) of the Act.
- b. Appoint and manage the performance of visitors to conduct the evaluation of courses under section 12 of the Act.

Annex to 13

- c. 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.
- d. Exercise powers to require information from osteopathic educational institutions in connection with its statutory functions in accordance with Section 18 of the Act.

Meeting Frequency

Three times yearly or more frequently if required. Some business may be conducted out of committee where required.

Membership

Ordinary members

- Five members of Council, of whom two shall be osteopaths and three shall be lay members. One of the lay members shall be appointed by Council to be Chair of the Committee.
- Four members who are not members of Council.

Co-opted members

The Committee may co-opt up to five members in accordance with Rule 3 of the Statutory Committee Rules.

Observers with speaking rights

The member organisations of the Osteopathic Development Group are invited to send an observer with speaking rights to each meeting.

Observers may not take part in any part of the meeting where the business is that reserved to the Education Committee.

Quorum

Five, of which:

- at least one must be a lay person and one must be an osteopath.
- at least two must be members of Council and two must be members who are not members of Council.