



Policy and Education Committee

9 March 2022

Patient engagement and osteopathic education

Classification	Public
Purpose	For noting
Issue	An update on patient engagement within osteopathic education.
Recommendations	To note progress and future plans to support osteopathic education providers to embed patient engagement in their institutions.
Financial and resourcing implications	We have a budget of £13K for patient and public involvement work across 2022-23.
Equality and diversity implications	As we further develop our patient engagement work, we will continue to explore equality and diversity implications and develop further an equality impact assessment.
Communications implications	None
Annex	None
Author	Rachel Heatley and Stacey Clift

Key messages from this paper

- The GOsC continues to engage with osteopathic education institutions (OEI) to develop best practice in patient and public involvement in education.
- Key work to date has included a patient and public involvement (PPI) survey with all nine education providers and a PPI workshop in conjunction with General Chiropractic Council (GCC).
- We are currently working with individual education providers to understand the barriers and enablers to embedding PPI more widely in their work and what support or resources they might require in overcoming any barriers.

Background

1. One of the key objectives of our Business Plan 2022-23 is to 'work with patients, educational providers and others to understand and develop good practice for the involvement of patients in osteopathic education and training'. As part of this objective, we have committed to working with OEIs to support the further development of patient involvement in education and training, eg, curriculum, assessment and governance as well as patient feedback.
2. All UK OEIs have a teaching clinic where students are involved in the osteopathic care of real patients. We are keen to explore to what extent patients may further contribute to osteopathic education.
3. During 2019 we began a thematic review into the role patients play in contributing to the pre-registration education of osteopaths in the UK. At the GOsC/COEI meeting on 29 April 2019 the proposed scope for the thematic review was agreed. The aim of this thematic review was to:
 - Identify areas of innovation good practice in this area.
 - Compare findings with other examples of patient involvement in healthcare curricula.
 - Identify areas for development.
 - Explore the experience and expectations of patients and others in contributing to osteopathic education.
 - Collaborate with OEIs to look across the sector and identify good practice with the aim of providing more in-depth information to enable all parties to learn from.
4. The Committee is invited to note the progress of the patient involvement activity in osteopathic education to date.

Discussion

Patient and Public involvement in osteopathic and chiropractic survey

5. In 2019, GOsC began working collaboratively with the General Chiropractic Council to better understand patient involvement within chiropractic education with a view to sharing findings and identifying best practice.
6. The GOsC designed and conducted a survey between 14 May 2019 to 2 September 2019 which each of the nine osteopathic educational providers completed. We invited the General Chiropractic Council to join us in this PPI activity to further understand some of the complexities of PPI within similar sectors and aid comparisons between the osteopathic and chiropractic professions. Three chiropractic educational institutions completed the survey for us (NB there were 4 institutions in total at the time of completion, the fourth institution submitted a written response after the survey had closed).
7. The purpose of the survey was to find out more about:
 - patient involvement in teaching clinics
 - patient involvement in curricular and governance structures
 - patient feedback mechanisms used in education enhancements and challenges in involving patients in education
 - perception of institutions overall patient involvement based on the 'Ladder of Participation' (See Figure 1).
8. The key survey findings are outlined below. For more information on these findings see: The Osteopath March/April 2020, issue pp17-19.
 - Osteopathic and chiropractic providers are at different baseline levels of patient involvement (see Figure 1).

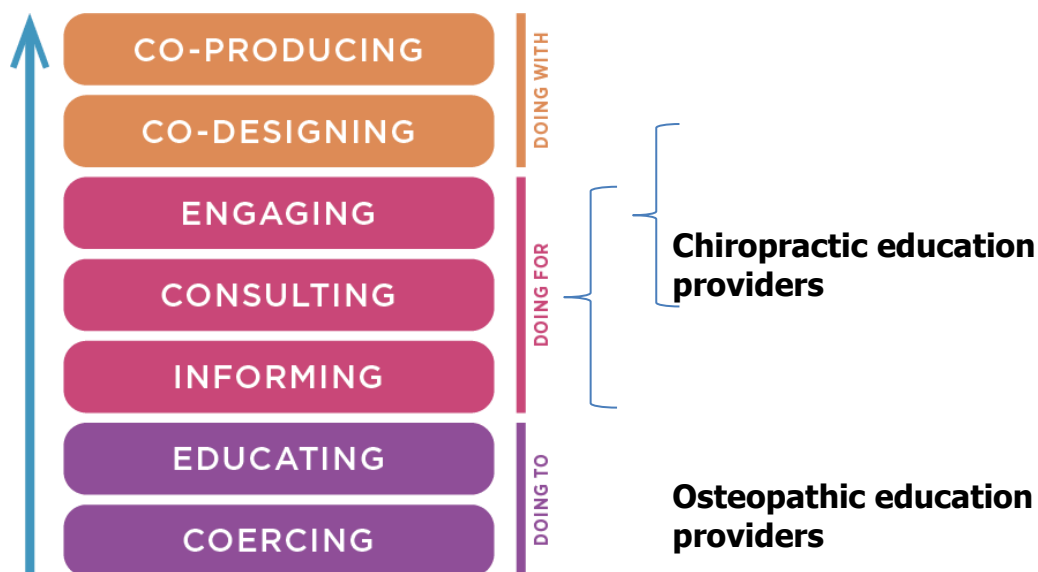


Fig 1. The New Economics Foundation's 'Ladder of Participation'¹

- Osteopathic institutions are at very different levels of patient involvement from 'informing' to 'engaging'.
- Chiropractic institutions are at very high levels of participation and engagement adopting a 'doing with' style of PPI.
- Patients contribute to clinical education in a variety of ways across both osteopathic and chiropractic professions, ranging from patient panels and forums to patients taking part in specific tutorials and lectures relating to their condition as well as being involved as patient educators and experts.
- Largely patients did not contribute to the development of resources used in clinical education. In the few instances where they did it was usually through the use of real patient problems for problem-solving learning or virtual student cases and patient narratives.
- Patients are involved in chiropractic curricula development, but not osteopathic.
- Few osteopathic providers involve patients in governance structures and recruitment of patient representation to form part of the governing body was rare.
- Largely patients were not involved in recruitment of prospective students, where this did occur, it was more likely to be chiropractic providers.
- Slightly more osteopathic providers involve patients in assessment or assessment design.
- The main feedback mechanisms used by OEIs are:
 - Comment cards (7 OEIs)

¹ Ref. McMillan, 2019: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-New-Economics-Foundation-Ladder-of-Participation-Ref-McMillan-2019_fig3_350487168

- Complaints and compliments (6 OEIs)
 - Patient survey (6 OEIs)
 - Patient panels or forums (4 OEIs)
 - Patient involvement in research (3 OEIs)
9. Frequently cited barriers or challenges to involving patients for both osteopathic and chiropractic providers included identifying resources to support patient involvement and time constraints. This challenge was faced by both the institutions and patients, which tended to result in activities attracting the 'usual suspects'. Osteopathic institutions also cited further challenges, such as unbalanced views from patients, consent and confidentiality issues, and the blurring of professional boundaries as a direct result of patient involvement.
10. Osteopathic providers were more likely to have plans to enhance current patient involvement practices. Plans centred around three key areas: (1) recruitment of patients, (2) encourage and request feedback more routinely and (3) strengthen current provision and explore alternatives. In contrast, chiropractic providers were less likely to have plans to enhance patient involvement largely feeling content with their current practice and provision.
11. Osteopathic education providers and the GOsC met in December 2019 to review these survey findings and it was agreed that it would be useful to set up a workshop to enable the osteopathic and chiropractic education providers to share their experiences and to learn from each other. The intention was that the workshop would take place in 2020, however with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, plans were put on hold.

PPI in osteopathic and chiropractic education workshop

12. In March 2021, we hosted the rescheduled joint workshop with the General Chiropractic Council to review the survey results and encourage discussion between osteopathic and chiropractic institutions regards the role of patient and public involvement in their respective organisations. The workshop was attended by educators, PPI experts as well as osteopathic and chiropractic patients. The osteopathic patient representatives had all experienced treatment in OEI clinics and two of the patient representatives had experience of patient engagement projects with medical students focusing on clinical and communications skills.
13. Workshop attendees heard examples of best practice of patient and public involvement in other educational settings, with speakers from the University of Hertfordshire and the University of Leeds Medical School. The workshop also encouraged educational institutions to reflect on the impact of COVID-19 on patient and public involvement in their work.

14. Educators welcomed the opportunity to interact with their peers, patients, and patient engagement experts and to consider actions they could take to apply best practice in their respective institutions.
15. Osteopathic education providers did raise a number of challenges they envisaged when embedding PPI which included:
- How to resource the additional work required to provide enough time and training to do PPI successfully.
 - High levels of nervousness about involving patients due to the potential for boundaries issues and what this could mean for the Osteopathic Practice Standards.
 - The lack of mechanisms to involve patients at a governance level and not sure how to create them.

Recent activity

16. Since December 2021 we have been liaising with Osteopathic Educational Institutions to understand the progress they have made since the workshop in embedding patient engagement. Our aim is to identify the barriers and enablers they have experienced to increasing or diversifying their patient engagement activity in nine months following the workshop.
17. As a first step, we have reviewed recent annual report submissions which used the draft Standards for Training in which there is specific reference to patient involvement. The responses indicate that educational providers remain at very different stages of the journey and that the pandemic has had an adverse effect on their ability to enhance PPI.
18. We are now following up with educators and clinic leads in OEIs who are at the coal face of patient engagement to elicit what support they might need, such as resources or guidance to enhance their approach to PPI.

Next steps

19. We aim to have spoken to all OEIs by April 2022 and once these interviews have been completed, we will scope out potential options to enhance PPI in osteopathic education (eg training sessions or resources) and will report back to PEC in June 2022. Ultimately, we intend that this project will help inform the GOPRE and SET in relation to PPI in osteopathic education.

Recommendation

To note progress and future plans to support osteopathic education providers to embed patient engagement in their institutions.