

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
14 JUNE 2011  
PUBLIC SESSION  
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DEPARTMENT REPORT**

<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Purpose</b>	To note
<b>Issues</b>	This paper reports on the work undertaken by the Professional Standards department and any matters arising since the last report to the Education Committee dated 16 March 2011.
<b>Recommendation</b>	The Committee is asked to note the report.
<b>Financial &amp; Resourcing Implications</b>	None arising directly from this paper.
<b>Equality &amp; Diversity Implications</b>	None arising from this paper.
<b>Communications Implications</b>	None arising from this paper.
<b>Annexes</b>	None.

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## Summary

1. This paper reports on the work undertaken by the Professional Standards Department and any matters arising since the last report to the Education Committee dated 16 March 2011.

## Report

### *Healthcare Organisations*

2. On 15 April 2011, the Head of Professional Standards attended a meeting with Claire Herbert, Head of Revalidation at the General Dental Council. The meeting was to discuss the progress made by GOsC on revalidation and CPD as well as to understand more about the thinking of the GDC in relation to revalidation and CPD. The GDC are currently considering the purpose and nature of CPD, in particular for those professions allied to dentistry.
3. On 19 April 2011 the Head of Professional Standards attended an Inter-Regulatory meeting on revalidation. All healthcare regulatory bodies share thinking and progress on revalidation.
4. On 20 April 2011 the Head of Professional Standards attended a meeting with Dr Victor Gbenro from the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN). The MDCN are considering the regulation of professions complementary to medicine including osteopathy and wanted to know how regulation had commenced and was ongoing in the UK.
5. On 9 May 2011 the Chief Executive, the Head of Policy and Communications and the Head of Professional Standards met with a group incorporating the British Osteopathic Association, the Osteopathic Pelvic, Abdominal and Respiratory Association and the Sutherland Cranial College and the Foundation for Paediatric Osteopathy to discuss the development of the BOA led Scope of Practice. The meeting was productive and enabled GOsC to confirm its position, as agreed by Council in January 2010, that the GOsC needs to undertake further underpinning research before determining the purpose and effect of a Scope of Practice.
6. On 23 May 2011 the Chief Executive, Head of Professional Standards and the Professional Standards Manager attended a meeting with representatives from the Instituto Medicina Tradicional in Portugal, to discuss the way that osteopathy is delivered in this educational institution in Portugal and how graduates might register in the UK.

### *Academic Engagement*

7. On 20 April 2011, the Professional Standards Manager attended a meeting held by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies (PRSB). An interesting aspect of the meeting was the discussion about reducing the burden of regulation on institutions and how this might be achieved.
8. On 9 June 2011, the Professional Standards Manager together with the Head of Regulation will attend a meeting to discuss the possibility of streamlining the Recognised Qualification (RQ) process. A further update is provided later on in the agenda.

### *Meetings with Osteopathic Educational Institutions (OEIs)*

9. In late March / early April 2011, the Chief Executive, accompanied by either the Head of Professional Standards or the Professional Standards Manager, attended introductory meetings with the Principals of the London School of Osteopathy, the Leeds Metropolitan University and the Surrey Institute of Osteopathic Medicine. The topics discussed were:-
  - a. OEI engagement with GOsC and links with COEI
  - b. Student fitness to practise
  - c. Osteopathic Practice Standards – GOsC progress
  - d. Preliminary QA Review – Annual Report and QAA Handbook
  - e. CPD Review – GOsC progress
  - f. Revalidation – GOsC progress
  - g. Research – Patient expectations and adverse events.
10. On 9 April 2011 the Chief Executive and the Head of Professional Standards attended the BSO International Education Conference. The Chief Executive presented on the development of osteopathy internationally and the Head of Professional Standards presented a Poster on the Revalidation. The conference included a number of presentations, some of the more challenging ones were Clinical Assessment in osteopathy, and a critical examination of what osteopathy was and how it might best be taught. The conference was attended by people from a number of the UK OEIs as well as a variety of international OEIs and other experts in assessment from other health disciplines.
11. On 5 May 2011 the Head of Professional Standards gave a presentation at the Oxford Brookes University on the Student Fitness to Practise consultation. Another presentation is also scheduled for 7 June 2011 at the British School of Osteopathy to introduce students to the Code of Practice, the new Osteopathic Practice Standards and our draft guidance on Student Fitness to practice. These presentations are enabling us to further develop and refine our Code of Practice

presentation for OEIs bringing together our work on Student Fitness to Practice and our work on the Code and Osteopathic Practice Standards.

*Project updates*

12. All other project updates are provided elsewhere on this agenda.

**Recommendation**

13. The Education Committee is asked to note the report and raise any questions by email with the Head of Professional Standards: [fbrowne@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:fbrowne@osteopathy.org.uk).