

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
14 JUNE 2011
QUALITY ASSURANCE CONSULTATION

Classification Public

Purpose For decision

Issue As a result of considerable delays in the granting of some Recognised Qualification (RQs), discussions have been held with DH about how the process could be streamlined at the Privy Council, DH and internally.

Recommendations

1. To agree the publication of the consultation report analysis
2. To agree the actions to be taken as a result of the consultation report, outlined in Annex B
3. To agree the publication of the revised GOsC Review Method Handbook and Annual Report template in July 2011

Financial and resourcing implications Publication costs incorporated in Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) contract.

Equality and diversity implications None arising from this paper.

Communications implications The consultation report analysis and

Annexes Annex A – QAA Consultation Analysis Report
 Annex B – QAA Consultation response

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Background

4. Strategic Objective 2.6 of the GOsC Corporate Plan requires the GOsC to review the quality assurance of education and training and ensure that the procedures are fit for purpose.
5. Following consultation and development in conjunction with both the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and the Osteopathic Educational Institutions (OEIs), Council agreed to consult on a revised GOsC Review Method Handbook and Annual Report template.
6. The consultation took place between 19 February and 18 May 2011. The Consultation process is outlined in the attached report from the QAA at Annex A, together with the results of the consultation.
7. The QAA and GOsC targeted the following groups for feedback:
 - a. Osteopathic Educational Institutions
 - b. Post-graduate Educational Institutions
 - c. Osteopathy students
 - d. British Osteopathic Association
 - e. Other healthcare regulators
 - f. Department of Health / Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence
 - g. Patients
 - h. Public
 - i. QAA assessors
8. The Report will be published by the QAA and available on the GOsC website to ensure transparency with the consultation process.

Discussion

9. From the feedback, you will see that the changes to both the GOsC Review Method Handbook and the Annual Report template were generally met with approval in terms of the content, language and format and clarity.
10. There were however a number of areas where suggestions were made for improvements.

11. These have been extracted from the QAA report and presented in a table at Annex B. The table also presents the views of the QAA, a discussion of the points raised and a suggested action.
12. The Education Committee is asked to review and agree the action to be taken for each point which will then be completed outside of Committee. Where amendments are to be made to the text of either the GOsC Review Method Handbook or the Annual Report template, these will be redrafted in conjunction with the QAA.

Next steps

13. The next steps are as follows:
 - a) Documents finalised – by end of June 2011
 - b) Documents Published for at least one year before coming into effect – by end of July 2011
 - c) New Annual Report template issued in October 2011
 - d) Re-appointment of QAA visitors – Spring 2012
 - e) Training in new Osteopathic Practice Standards and Review Method Spring/Summer 2012
 - f) Effective date of new GOsC Review Method – 1 September 2012 (to coincide with new Osteopathic Practice Standards effective date)

Recommendations

14. To agree the publication of the consultation report analysis
15. To agree the actions to be taken as a result of the consultation report, outlined in Annex B
16. To agree the publication of the revised GOsC Review Method Handbook and Annual Report template in July 2011