

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**16 JUNE 2011**  
**STUDENT FITNESS TO PRACTISE**

<b><u>Classification</u></b>	Public
<b><u>Purpose</u></b>	For decision
<b><u>Issues</u></b>	The scoping report for the development of the Guidance for Osteopathic Educational Institutions (OEIs) about the management of disability and health impairments in practice.
<b><u>Recommendations</u></b>	To agree the scoping report for the development of Guidance for OEIs about the Management of Health Impairments and Disability.
<b><u>Financial and resourcing implications</u></b>	The cost of the development of the Guidance for the OEIs about the management of health impairments and disability is £9900 which is slightly less than the £10000 budgeted for this project. The initial sum of £2000 is payable on agreement of the scoping report.
<b><u>Equality and Diversity implications</u></b>	Specific guidance about the management of health and disability in training is being commissioned as part of our commitment to 'reassure all that the only concern of the regulatory body is the person's capability to practise in line with competence and conduct standards, not the state of their health or any impairment that they might have.' We have sought to achieve fairness and consistency in conduct matters through publication of guidance which emphasises the safety of patients rather than punishment.
<b><u>Communications Implications</u></b>	The guidance about the management of health and disability is being developed in partnership with the OEIs and students. Focus groups and interviews are taking place.
<b><u>Annexes</u></b>	Annex A – Scoping Report from Prime Research and Development Ltd to develop guidance in the management of health impairments and disability in osteopathic training and practice.
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## Background

1. The GOsC Corporate Plan states that we will 'identify ways in which the GOsC can provide support to OEIs in making fair and consistent fitness to practise decisions, to ensure that only those students who are fit to practise are awarded a RQ.' It also states that we will 'provide information and guidance to OEIs on how they can effectively comply with their equality duties under anti-discrimination law.'
2. At its last meeting on 16 March 2011, the Education Committee agreed to issue the Student Fitness to Practise Guidance and the Fitness to practise guidance for osteopathic students (collectively known as 'the guidance') for consultation. This was agreed by Council on 14 April 2011. The consultation is ongoing and two presentations to students have been planned.
3. The Education Committee also noted the progress of the Guidance about the Management of Disability and Health impairments in training and practice.
4. This paper updates the Committee about the progress of the student fitness to practise consultation. It also asks the Committee to agree the scoping research for the development of the Guidance about the Management of Disability and Health impairments in training and practice.

## Discussion

### *Student fitness to practise guidance for OEIs and Fitness to practise guidance for osteopathic students*

5. The guidance has been circulated electronically to the following:
  - Consumer bodies and patient organisations including the CHRE patient list of organisations
  - Our own patient representative who responded to one of the flyers placed in the OEI clinics.
  - British Osteopathic Association
  - Specialist Osteopathic Societies
  - Osteopathic Regional Communications Network
  - International osteopathic health regulators
  - All OEIs – and they have confirmed that many of them have circulated the document onwards to their faculty, student (and patient groups where relevant).
  - Other healthcare regulators via the Education Inter-regulatory group.
  - GOsC Fitness to practise panelists
  - QAA
  - GOsC/ QAA Visitors
  - Advertisement on the GOsC public website and the **o** zone
  - Advertisement on the Higher Education Academy website.

- In addition two student seminars will be held as part of the consultation and the GOsC will also be holding a seminar with the Regional Communications Network representatives on 17 June 2011.

6. The consultation will conclude on 1 September 2011.

*Development of Guidance for OEIs about the Management of Health Impairments and Disability for the OEIs*

7. A scoping report for this work is attached at Annex A. The work has been informed by discussions with the OEIs and a round table focus group with appropriate representatives from all but one of the OEIs after the GOsC / OEI Meeting on 19 May 2011 as well as anonymised data from the GOsC about the matters of health and disability in osteopathy.
8. The report outlines how the work is to be taken forward. It is suggested that the approach suggested is sound and that the Committee agree to endorse the report and the progress of this work.

**Recommendations:**

9. To note the dissemination of the Student Fitness to Practise Guidance for OEIs and the Fitness to practise guidance for osteopathic students.
10. To endorse the Scoping report and the progress of Guidance for OEIs about the Management of Health Impairments and Disability for the OEIs.