

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE
14 JUNE 2011
PUBLIC SESSION
EDUCATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

Classification Public

Purpose For decision

Issues None

**Financial and
Resourcing
Implications** None

**Equality and
Diversity
Implications** None

**Communications
Implications** None

Annexes None

General Osteopathic Council Education Committee: Review of

June 2010 to June 2011

Summary of Activities since June 2010

1. The Education Committee met four times during the time period under review – in June 2010, September 2010, December 2010 and March 2011. This report summarises the achievements of the Committee and includes decisions taken and actions recommended. Full minutes of all the meetings have already been reported to the Council.
2. This report also incorporates the work of Education Committee sitting as the Revalidation Standards and Assessment Group which met in June 2010, September 2010, January 2011 and March 2011.

Standard of Proficiency/ Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS)

3. Following the Council's decision to bring the Code of Practice and Standard of Proficiency together in one document, the Committee noted the progress of the work at each meeting.
4. The Committee, through its work as the Revalidation Standards and Assessment Group (RSAG) developed the domains that the revised Osteopathic Practice Standards were based on and fed into the development of the draft Osteopathic Standards. Decisions about the revised Osteopathic Practice Standards were to be made by Council.
5. The Committee noted the following:
 - Independent consultants, Hewell, Taylor Freed and Associates were appointed to undertake the Osteopathic Practice Standards consultation between September 2010 and November 2010.
 - The extensive programme of consultation activities as required by the contract including face to face and telephone consultations with osteopaths nationwide, Osteopathic Educational Institution Principals, patients, the BOA and other osteopath representatives.
 - A small Working Group would be convened comprising Education Committee and other members to consider the analysis and develop the Osteopathic Practice Standards.
 - The initial analysis of issues and the work undertaken by the small Working Group to finalise the Osteopathic Practice Standards and the General Osteopathic Council response to the consultation analysis.

Quality Assurance

6. During the course of the year under review, the Committee continued in its key role of providing advice to Council in relation to education and training as well as promoting high standards of education and training in osteopathy and keeping the provision made for that education and training under review¹. Actions included:
- Agreement to discontinue the use of the Lay Observer for RQ decision making following discussion with the Osteopathic Educational Institutions (OEIs).
 - Consideration of the requirements of the revised GOsC / QAA contract for 2010 – 2012 including the explicit requirement for training of Visitors.
 - Issue of a shortened transitional Annual Report pending the consultation on a major report.
 - Agreement of the revision of the draft GOsC / QAA Handbook about the Review method for consultation to update it and make it fit for purpose (taking into account feedback from the initial analysis of the QA process using feedback from OEIs, CHRE reports and other mechanisms).
 - Agreement of the revision of the draft GOsC / QAA Annual Report for consultation (taking into account feedback as above).
 - Agreement to a revision of the draft team and person specification for Visitors for consultation to make explicit the competences required from Visitors.
 - Facilitation of a seminar for the OEIs promoting good practice in osteopathic education which all Education Committee members were invited to attend.
 - Consideration of 5 x initial Masters Qualifications.
 - Consideration of 4 x RQ renewals.
 - Consideration of 1 targeted review report.
 - Consideration of evidence in relation to fulfilment of conditions for all RQs.
 - Consideration of the independent analysis of all Annual Reports by the QAA and feedback provided to OEIs.
 - Consideration of steps taken in conjunction with the Department of Health to streamline the RQ process to reduce the length of time take to obtain the Privy Council's approval to the Council decision to Recognise a Qualification on the advice of the Education Committee.
 - Agreement of Guidance about acceptable advertising in relation to qualifications which have not yet been recognised by Council or approved by the Privy Council.

Student Fitness to Practise

7. The Education Committee continued to develop its role in relation to student fitness to practise as part of the implementation of our standards by:
- Consideration of a Fitness to Practise Report prepared by the Regulation Department identifying trends and issues prevalent in GOsC fitness to practise

¹ See section 11(1) Osteopaths Act 1993

cases to enable them to feed into development of educational and CPD initiatives.

- Establishing a Student Fitness to Practise Working Group comprising OEI representatives, students and lay representatives to develop student fitness to practise guidance for consultation.
- Appointing an independent firm of consultants, Prime Research and Development Ltd (Lindsay Mitchell and David Moore) to develop specific guidance for Osteopathic Educational Institutions about the management of health impairments and disability in education, training and practice.
- Launching a consultation on its Student Fitness to Practise guidance.

Preparedness to Practice/Transition into Practice

8. The Education Committee developed a specification for research to better understand the support required for graduates making the transition from student to practitioner.

9. In conjunction with the Research Strategy Working Group, the Education Committee contributed to the appointment of Professor Della Freeth, Dr Paul McIntosh and Dr Dawn Carnes of Queen Mary, University of London to undertake this research.

10. Ethical approval has been granted for the study and a survey and focus groups are underway. The study is examining the preparedness of osteopathic graduates for practice from the perspectives of:

- New registrants to the profession (less than one year of registration);
- Final year students of osteopathy;
- Programme Directors and Clinical tutors from the Osteopathy Education Institutions (OEs); and
- Employers and colleagues of new registrants.

Review of Advanced Practice/Scope of Practice

11. The Committee developed a specification for the invitation to tender for Patterns of Practice research in conjunction with the Research Strategy Working Group and Council.

Pre-curriculum content

12. The Committee considered a detailed background to the development of this piece of work and draft terms of reference for the work stream. The Committee indicated that further information was required about the scope of the project before the terms of reference could be agreed.

Revalidation

Revalidation Standards, Assessment and Evidence

13. The RSAG oversaw the development of the Standards, Assessment and Guidelines and undertook the following actions:

- The co-option of further members to the Assessment Expert Team to ensure a breadth of experience in the development of the work. These members were John Patterson and Caroline Penn as a critical reader.
- Agreement to the terms of reference for a Virtual Review Group to feed into the development of the Guidelines.
- Oversight of the development of a set of assessment criteria to support the developing revalidation standards, assessment and evidence framework.
- Oversight of the development of the Revalidation Guidelines both before and after the publication of the Osteopathic Practice Standards.
- The development of the person and team specifications for the Revalidation Pilot Assessors.
- Bringing the negative feedback from the Critical Reader involved in the development of the Revalidation Guidelines to the attention of KPMG to enable it to be taken into account as part of the development of the evaluation and impact assessment of the draft revalidation scheme.

Evaluation and Impact Assessment

14. The RSAG oversaw the development of the independent evaluation of the Revalidation Pilots and undertook the following actions:

- Consideration of the development of the survey tools feeding into the development of the Report – How Osteopaths Practise.
- Consideration of the final report for How Osteopaths Practise.
- Consideration of the development of the report – A report on the review of the work undertaken by other regulators to outline costs, benefits, financial and regulatory risks.
- Consideration of the development of the report – Report on methods used to identify costs, benefits and financial and regulatory risks.

Development of the pilot

15. In order to develop the pilot, the RSAG undertook the following actions:

- Noted the applications for further funding from the Department of Health for the piloting of the first stage of the draft revalidation scheme.
- Development of the benefits and incentives for osteopaths to take part in the revalidation pilots.
- Development of the characteristics for volunteers to be involved in the pilots.

- Development of the pilot specification setting out the aims of the pilot.
- Development of the selection strategy, person and team specifications for the Revalidation Pilot Assessors.

CPD Review

16. The RSAG have agreed the underpinning analysis informing the CPD Review and the development of a CPD Discussion paper.

Dissemination of Good Practice and notable external reports

Patient Expectations

17. The research report *Investigating osteopathic patients' expectations of private osteopathic care: the OPEn project – Summary Report* was presented to the Education Committee in December 2010 for consideration about whether and if so how the findings could influence policy work. The Committee agreed that the findings were sufficiently robust to help to inform current education and training policy.

Liberating the NHS: Developing the Healthcare Workforce

18. The Committee oversaw the development of detailed response in conjunction with the British Osteopathic Association and the Council of Osteopathic Educational Institutions to these government proposals which could be of strategic importance to osteopathy.

Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence publications

19. Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE), *Health Conditions*, June 2009. The Committee considered the contents of the Report and agreed that the recommendations should be taken into account as far as possible in GOsC work.

20. CHRE, *Managing Extended Practice*, June 2010. The Education Committee noted the publication of the CHRE Report: Managing extended practice in its September 2010 meeting and considered further the implications for GOsC as we move to further develop our advanced and scope of practice work.

21. CHRE Report- Right Touch Regulation, August 2010. The Education Committee were asked to note the publication of the CHRE's report on Right Touch Regulation which could provide a useful framework to evaluate future policy changes in all aspects of its work.

Engagement

22. During 2010/11, the Education Committee held four meetings with the OEIs. These meetings enabled the Education Committee to listen to the views of the OEIs and to keep the OEIs informed about developments. As part of these meetings, the OEIs were

also able to take part in focus groups which facilitated their involvement in the Guidance about Health Impairments and Disability in Osteopathic Education and training as well as Revalidation.

23. A wide range of topics were discussed including:

- Quality Assurance
- UKBA
- Revalidation
- Preparedness to practise research
- Vetting and barring
- QAA Benchmark Statement
- HEFCE funding
- Communication
- Scope of Practice
- Student fitness to practise
- Liberating the NHS: Developing the Healthcare Workforce Proposals
- The systems regulators.

24. During the period of this Report, the Chair of the Committee has also held meetings with:

- Caroline Penn – Critical Reader for the Revalidation Assessment Team
- Garth Robertson – LCOM representative
- KPMG – Workshop to develop the Evaluation and Impact Assessment methodology
- Adrian Barnes – new Chair of COEI

As well as chairing the GOsC/OEI Working Group and the Student Fitness to Practise Working Group.