

**Education Committee  
14 December 2010  
Public session  
Preparedness to practice**

<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Purpose</b>	To note
<b>Issues</b>	This paper asks Education Committee to note the appointment of the research team to undertake the preparedness research. This will commence in January 2011.
<b>Financial &amp; Resourcing Implications</b>	We have allocated a budget of £30 000 to pay for this work over the course of the 2010/11 and 2011/12 financial years.
<b>Equality &amp; Diversity Implications</b>	None arising from this paper
<b>Communications Implications</b>	We are placing information about the research in the Osteopath. We have also presented at the Regional Communications Network meeting to publicise the research. This helped us to publicise and the opportunity for those who have worked with new graduates to feedback on experiences.
<b>Annexes</b>	<a href="#">Annex A</a> : Proposal for research into preparedness for practice.

Fiona Browne  
December 2010

## Summary

1. This paper asks the Education Committee to note the appointment of Professor Della Freeth, Dr Paul McIntosh and Dr Dawn Carnes of the Barts and the London Medical School to undertake the preparedness to practise research beginning in 2011. It is envisaged that this work will contribute to thinking about how to support students as they make the transition to practitioner.

## Background

2. On 13 July 2010, Council agreed to, subject to making the amendments to the tender document and circulating it to the Council for approval, that the revised invitation to tender for research into the preparedness of osteopathic graduates for practice would be published. Council also agreed that the selection of the research team and the research itself would be overseen by the Research Strategy Working Group (RSWG).

## Discussion

3. Professor Adrian Eddleston, Professor Ian Hughes, Mr Rob McCoy and Mr Kenneth McLean participated in a research panel on 13 October 2010. Six research teams were interviewed. The successful research proposal is attached at Annex A.
4. Professor Della Freeth, Dr Paul McIntosh and Dr Dawn Carnes (a former registered osteopath) of Barts and the London Medical School have been appointed to undertake this work. The team has considerable experience in healthcare and education research, and a strong publication record in a variety of reputable journals. Professor Freeth particularly has a longstanding interest in the transition from student to qualified practitioner, having conducted and supervised similar studies.
5. The team will use a variety of methods for this research and will engage with students and current registrants as well as conducting an examination of literature, including our recent study on patient expectations. They will be examining preparedness using the following themes:
  - a. Clinical skills and knowledge, including appropriate self-evaluation of competence.
  - b. Interpersonal skills (with a wide variety of patients and in relation to situations presenting varying degrees of challenge; interaction with osteopathy colleagues and other health care professionals).
  - c. Professionalism (including, for example, recognising one's limited expertise and scope of practice; making appropriate referrals; valuing diversity; respecting confidentiality; commitment to patient safety; and engaging in CPD).
  - d. Entrepreneurial and business skills.

6. The team will start work on the project early in the New Year, and will report back to RSWG on their progress in the summer.
7. The team intend to liaise closely with the OEIs as part of their work to ensure that the research does not adversely impact on students and staff particularly around exam time.

**Recommendation:**

8. The Education Committee are invited to note the appointment of Professor Della Freeth, Dr Paul McIntosh and Dr Dawn Carnes of the Barts and the London Medical School to undertake the preparedness to practise research beginning in 2011.