

**GENERAL OSTEOPATHIC COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Part I of the 62nd meeting of the Education Committee (EdC)  
which took place on Tuesday 14 December 2010 at Osteopathy House, 176  
Tower Bridge Road, London SE1 3LU.**

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Unconfirmed

Chair: Professor Ian Hughes

Present: Professor Adrian Eddleston                      Mr Liam Stapleton  
Dr Jane Fox    Professor Julie Stone  
Professor Bernadette Griffin                      Ms Fiona Walsh  
Mr Robert McCoy

In Attendance: Mr Tim Walker, Chief Executive & Registrar  
Ms Fiona Browne, Head of Professional Standards (from 15.35hrs)  
Mr Marcus Dye, Professional Standards Manager  
Ms Joy Winyard, Professional Standards Officer  
Ms Dayna Sherwin, Professional Standards Assistant

**PART I** (*items which will be reported to the Public Session of Council at its next meeting*)

**ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1. Apologies were received from Ms Paula Cook.
2. No interests were declared by the members for any of the items on the agenda.

**ITEM 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

3. No amendments were suggested and the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting of 16 September 2010.

**ITEM 3 MATTERS ARISING**

4. An update was requested on the interviews for the Research into Transition to Practice which took place on 13 October 2010. It was confirmed that a team from Barts and the London Medical School had been appointed and that this would be reported further at Item 9 of this agenda.
5. An explanation was requested for the meaning of ".....use of the concept of

distributed regulation might be more suited to newly qualified osteopaths” as stated at paragraph 30. d. in the minutes. The Head of Professional Standards agreed to go back to the notes to identify the sources of the point to clarify the statement in the September 2010 minutes.

#### **ITEM 4 CHAIR AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DEPARTMENT ACTION AND REPORT**

6. The Chair had nothing additional to report. The Professional Standards Manager presented the departmental report, and confirmed that Francois Josserand, who met with the Chief Executive and the Head of Professional Standards on 25 November 2010, is the Head of Revalidation Policy at the Nursing and Midwifery Council.
7. It was also explained that the purpose of the ongoing meetings with the Australia and New Zealand Registration Boards mentioned at paragraph 2 is to seek a way forward for mutual recognition of qualification between the three countries.
8. Minor amendments were suggested for the Revalidation poster, should it need to be re-printed at a later date; however the amendments did not impact on the overall substance of the poster.
9. The Committee noted the report of the Chair and the Professional Standards Department.

#### **ITEM 5 INVESTIGATING OSTEOPATHIC PATIENTS’ EXPECTATIONS OF PRIVATE OSTEOPATHIC CARE: THE OPEN PROJECT – SUMMARY REPORT**

10. The Head of Professional Standards presented the report which had originally been circulated electronically.
11. The Members discussed the apparent limitations of the paper, namely the narrow patient base on which the survey was conducted. However, it was confirmed that this alone should not invalidate the findings as the authors had recommended that further survey research be undertaken to confirm their conclusions. The Committee confirmed that it felt that the findings *help* to inform education and training policy.
12. It was then confirmed that the report was also being analysed by the Communication and Regulation departments from their work stream perspective and that the paper presented was an analysis from an Education viewpoint. It is planned to combine the three perspectives shortly.
13. It was suggested that as there are a number of pieces of research underway at the moment, the best way forward would be for the Executive to extract the relevant pieces of information to understand which workstreams it will feed into. It was also suggested that once done, an analysis should be undertaken to determine whether commissioning research was value for money; however it was agreed that this process would probably be best undertaken in approximately three years time when the information had been fed into the workstreams and the full impact of the

research could be considered

14. The Committee agreed the following wording “that the findings are sufficiently robust to help to inform current education and training policy”.
15. The Committee also noted the preliminary analysis of the project summary report: *Investigating osteopathic patients’ expectations of private osteopathic care: the OPeN report: Summary report.*

## **ITEM 6 QUALITY ASSURANCE PRELIMINARY REVIEW**

### Consultation on GOsC-QAA Review Method Handbook

16. The Professional Standards Manager provided an update on the Quality Assurance preliminary review including the work being undertaken with the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) to revise the current Review Method Handbook to ensure it continues to assure that standards are met within osteopathic education.
17. A revised draft of the Handbook had previously been considered by the Committee and the initial comments had been incorporated by the QAA. It had also been presented to the OEIs for comment and these comments had also been incorporated into the draft presented here. It was proposed that this draft was now published for formal consultation with stakeholders including:
  - 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
18. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to publish the draft Review Handbooks for consultation subject to the following amendment:
  - a. That the word ‘key’ should be deleted from the first paragraph of Annex C of the Handbook for course providers and the first paragraph of Annex B of the Handbook for visitors. It is the processes that are inspected and many courses are not observed.
19. A further consideration of the specifications for team and individual visitor roles suggested that any appointment criteria drafted during the recruitment process should require osteopath visitors to be practising and registered (if in the UK).

### Revision of Annual Reports

20. The Professional Standards Manager presented the paper which considered the review of the annual reports produced by the OEIs for GOsC as part of the preliminary

QA Review.

21. The QAA undertook a review of the Annual Reports earlier in the year and provided feedback on how they could be reviewed. The revised draft Annual Report is a result of feedback from the OEIs and the views of the QAA on how the process might be amended.
22. Following discussion, the Committee agreed the draft Annual Report subject to the following amendments:
  - a. Part A 4 should read 'External Examiner reports' to account for the possibility that there are more than one.
  - b. Part A, 6 'significantly' should be inserted prior to '...changed during the reporting period'.
  - c. Part A, 8 'formal' should be inserted prior to '...complaints..'

#### **ITEM 7 STUDENT FITNESS TO PRACTISE**

23. The Head of Professional Standards presented the paper which reports on the meeting of the Student Fitness to Practise Working Group on 18 November 2010.
24. The Committee were asked to reviewed the draft Student Fitness to Practise Guidance for OEIs and Students for substantial issues and to advise of any minor changes via email to the Head of Professional Standards.
25. It was confirmed that the guidance was drafted in a flexible way so that it should not be at odds with any existing guidance already in place. It was acknowledged that some OEIs were further ahead than others and this document sets out the minimum standards expected and should be incorporated into their own standards.
26. It was also confirmed that the draft is still due to go out for consultation so is not a definitive document.
27. The Committee endorsed the decision of the Student Fitness to Practise Working Group to informally consult with stakeholders about the draft guidance, questions for discussion and ideas for implementation support.
28. The Committee also noted the progress of the development of Guidance about the Management of Health and Disability in Osteopathic Training.

#### **ITEM 8 OSTEOPATIC PRACTICE STANDARDS UPDATE**

29. The Professional Standards Manager presented the report which gave an update on the consultation on the Osteopathic Practice Standards. It was confirmed that the target outlined in the tender had been met and that the analysis will be produced early 2011.

30. The Committee noted the report.

**ITEM 9 PREPAREDNESS TO PRACTICE RESEARCH**

31. The Head of Professional Standards presented this paper which confirmed that 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. Professor Freeth will be attending the OEI meeting in February 2010 to agree dates to ensure that the research does not adversely impact on students and staff particularly around exam time.
32. The Committee noted the report.

**ITEM 10 COUNCIL FOR HEALTHCARE REGULATORY EXCELLENCE (CHRE) REPORT – RIGHT TOUCH REGULATION**

33. The Head of Professional Standards explained that the report had been brought to the meeting to ensure that the GOsC is applying its principals in its work.
34. The Committee noted the report.

**ITEM 11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

35. None were raised.

**ITEM 12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

36. Tuesday 16 March 2011