

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

<b><u>Classification</u></b>	Public
<b><u>Purpose</u></b>	For decision
<b><u>Issues</u></b>	The progress of work related to aspects of student fitness to practise.
<b><u>Recommendations</u></b>	<p>To agree to publish the Student Fitness to Practise Guidance for OEIs and the Fitness to Practise guidance for osteopathic students for formal consultation.</p> <p>To note the successful tender for the development of Guidance for OEIs about the Management of Health Impairments and Disability.</p>
<b><u>Financial and resourcing implications</u></b>	The student fitness to practise consultation will be undertaken in house to minimise costs. 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.
<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 will be published on our website and sent to OEIs, students and patients and the public for formal consultation.
<b><u>Annexes</u></b>	<a href="#">Annex A</a> – Tender 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 14 December 2010, 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 informal consultation. There had been common agreement that the policy should be in place before methods of implementation were considered further.
3. On 3 February 2011, the Council made some minor changes to the guidance and agreed to issue the guidance for informal consultation.
4. The guidance was discussed with the OEIs at the GOsC / OEI meeting on 15 February 2011. The guidance was welcomed and the OEIs recommended that the guidance be issued for formal consultation. The OEIs also agreed to facilitate formal consultation with students and patients through pre-existing groups and also to circulate materials provided by the GOsC.

## Discussion

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

5. In light of the positive feedback on the draft Student Fitness to Practise Guidance for the OEIs and the Fitness to Practise guidance for osteopathic students, the Education Committee is invited to agree to issue the guidance and questions for discussion for formal consultation. Minor amendments have been made to the version considered by the Education Committee in December. No amendments have been made to the questions for discussion. Final versions are available on request from Joy Winyard ([jwinyard@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:jwinyard@osteopathy.org.uk) or 020 7357 6655 x239).
6. Steps will be taken to seek feedback from all stakeholder groups as part of the consultation.

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

7. Interviews took place for the appointment of an expert in equality and diversity to undertake this work during February 2011. The selection panel comprised: Ian Hughes, Adrian Barnes (Principal, ESO and member of the Student Fitness to

Practise Working Group), Rob McCoy and Matthew Redford (Head of Finance and Administration).

8. The appointed candidate was Lindsay Mitchell of Prime Research and Development Ltd. The successful tender is attached at Annex A.

**Recommendations:**

9. To publish the Student Fitness to Practise Guidance for OEIs and the Fitness to practise guidance for osteopathic students for formal consultation.
10. To note the successful tender for the development of Guidance for OEIs about the Management of Health Impairments and Disability.