

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

16 MARCH 2011

LIBERATING THE NHS: DEVELOPING THE WORKFORCE

<u>Classification</u>	Public
<u>Purpose</u>	For decision
<u>Issues</u>	The GOsC's response to the DH consultation Liberating the NHS: Developing the Workforce.
<u>Recommendations</u>	To agree the GOsCs consultation response to the DH consultation Liberating the NHS: Developing the Workforce.
<u>Financial and resourcing implications</u>	There are no direct financial implications of responding to the consultation.
<u>Equality and Diversity implications</u>	One of the objectives of the proposals in the White Paper is to widen participation. The paper states ' <i>Widening participation</i> – supporting diversity and equitable access to services and education, training and development opportunities and a system where talent flourishes free from discrimination with everyone having fair opportunities to progress.'
<u>Communications Implications</u>	We will publish our response.
<u>Annexes</u>	<p>Annex A – Liberating the NHS: Developing the Workforce Background Briefing.</p> <p>Annex B – Liberating the NHS: Developing the Workforce consultation paper.</p> <p>Annex C – Draft GOsC Response to Liberating the NHS: Developing the Workforce</p>
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Background

1. A White Paper and accompanying consultation papers form the Liberating the NHS proposals. Many of the proposals are contained in the current Health and Social Care Bill currently going through parliament. The Bill is currently at the Committee Stage in the House of Commons (as at March 2011).
2. The most recent consultation paper, Liberating the NHS: Developing the healthcare workforce consults on changes to education and training and workforce planning.
3. The consultation concludes on 31 March 2011.

Discussion

4. A background presentation is set out at Annex A. This will be presented at the meeting of the Education Committee. The full consultation paper Liberating the NHS: Developing the Healthcare Workforce is attached at Annex B.
5. In essence, major change is being proposed to the commissioning of NHS services. Following on from this, major changes are also being proposed to funding models for NHS education.
6. These changes could impact on osteopathy because a body called Healthcare Education England is proposed to feed into funding arrangements which will incorporate ALL health professions (not just those currently funded through the NHS.)
7. These proposals could represent an opportunity or a threat to the OEIs and to osteopathy in general. The purpose of this item is to explore emerging thoughts and identify the impact of the proposals.
8. The GOsCs interest in the consultation stems from the statutory duty of the GOsC to 'develop and regulate' the profession of osteopathy. As part of this role, we have presented on the White Paper and this consultation paper to ensure that they are informed about the findings to encourage them to respond in their capacity.
9. However, many of the issues in the consultation paper, such as changes to funding, impact directly on the OEIs and less so on us. We have therefore taken steps to bring this paper to the attention of both the OEIs and the BOA. We have attempted to effectively co-ordinate our responses.

10. GOSc may also want to respond along the lines of the response at Annex C. The Committee are asked to discuss and agree the issues raised by the response.
11. The Education Committee are requested to discuss the report and to consider the appropriate response taking into account the statutory duties of the General Osteopathic Council.

Recommendations:

12. To agree the GOSCs consultation response to the DH consultation Liberating the NHS: Developing the Workforce.