EDUCATION COMMITTEE
16 MARCH 2011
OSTEOPATHIC PRACTICE STANDARDS – UPDATE

Classification	Public
Purpose	To note
Issue	GOsC has received the draft analysis report following the consultation on revised Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS). This report provides an analysis of the responses and identifies the main findings. Separately, we commissioned a report on the OPS document from an independent equality and diversity expert. These now need to be analysed by the Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS) Working Group to critically review the final analysis report and make recommendations to Council.
Recommendation	To note the progress made in amending the Osteopathic Practice Standards following the results of the consultation.
Financial and resourcing implications	The 2010/11 budget allows for the costs for the consultation process and one meeting of the OPS working group. The 2011/12 budget earmarks funds for the publication of a final OPS document and a significant programme of activities to support the implementation of the OPS.
Equality and diversity implications	We have commissioned an independent equality and diversity consultant to review the OPS document and the process we have used for gathering feedback.
Communications implications	The initial consultation findings and next steps will be communicated to the profession.
Annexes	None
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Background

1. Strategic Objectives 1 and 2 in the Corporate Plan requires us to review and publish a revised Code of Practice (CoP) and Standard of Proficiency (SoP).

2. Both the CoP and SoP were separately revised under the guidance of two working parties established by Council. In January 2010, Council decided that the CoP and SoP should be brought together into a single document, which is now known as the OPS.

3. In July 2010, Council agreed that the draft OPS should be published for consultation with the profession, the public and other stakeholders. The consultation began on 1 September 2010 and closed on 30 November 2010.

4. In October 2010, Council established a working group, composed of three osteopaths and three lay members of Council, to critically review the final analysis report and make recommendations to Council on:

    a. any amendments required to the Osteopathic Practice Standards, as currently drafted;
    b. the timeline for publication of the final Osteopathic Practice Standards document.

5. Following discussion with the GOsC, Hewell Taylor Freed and Associates submitted its report on the consultation on 21 February 2011. Separately, we have also received an equality and diversity impact assessment from an independent equality and diversity expert on the OPS document itself.

6. The majority of the feedback in the consultation report was qualitative, therefore the report summarises the main findings of the feedback received. In some places this is a summary of comments or the percentage that have agreed with a certain statement/element, but in others it refers to more detailed comments.

7. The Working Group has been tasked with completing the following tasks by 25 March 2011:

    a. critically review the final analysis report and make recommendations to Council on:
        - any amendments required to the Osteopathic Practice Standards, as currently drafted;
        - the timeline for publication of the final Osteopathic Practice Standards document.

8. To achieve this, the Working group met on 3 March 2011 and undertook the following:
    a. Consideration of the more complex issues arising from the consultation and agreement of recommendations to Council in each of the areas. The

supporting papers to the meeting are available on request to illustrate the recommendations and arguments made in respect of each of the complex issues.

b. Agreement to changes to the text of the OPS document to give effect to the different arguments raised in the consultation analysis document. The complex issues considered were:

   i. The results and recommendations of the equality impact assessment conducted.
   ii. The format of the document (including the difference between the standards and the guidance sections and the use of 'must' and 'should').
   iii. The use of the term 'diagnosis' and how this fitted with osteopathic practice.
   iv. Standard D17. which states 'Uphold the reputation of the profession through your conduct.' Some respondents expressed concern about the notion of 'regulatory creep' into the private lives of osteopaths. Equally, alternative arguments made included the meaning of professionalism.
   v. Consent (including valid consent, the form of consent, ongoing consent and young people). Discussion related to how to clearly set out the legal requirements of consent in the four UK countries alongside the challenges in osteopathy about explaining the risks of treatment.
   vi. Modesty.
   vii. Intimate areas.
   viii. Chaperones.
   ix. The language of Section B – Knowledge, Skills and Performance. The issue here being the meaning of some of the value judgements such as "sufficient", adequate" and "advanced". What did this mean in a fitness to practise context.

c. Agreement to a further draft being submitted to the Working Group by 11 March 2011 for reconsideration and agreement before being presented to Council.

d. The timeline for publication is dependent on the decisions reached by the recommendations of the OPS working group and whether these are agreed by Council on 12 April 2011. The current aim is to publish the revised document in June 2011.

Recommendation: To note the progress made in amending the Osteopathic Practice Standards following the results of the consultation.