

CHAIR AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DEPARTMENT ACTION AND REPORT

5. The Chair had nothing additional to report. The Professional Standards Manager presented a departmental report and then informed the Committee about the recent Research Strategy Working Group (RSWG) meeting, held on 2 December 2009, where it was agreed to publish an invitation to tender for proposals addressing an evaluation and costs, benefits and risks analysis of the draft revalidation scheme. This would be circulated to the Committee members.
6. The Professional Standards Manager also reported on a recent meeting with the International Journal of Osteopathic Medicine (IJOM), where circulation figures and impact ratings for the journal were discussed. This information would be used by the RSWG to consider the future of the publication. The Committee noted the report.

FEEDBACK FROM FITNESS TO PRACTISE

7. The Regulation Manager joined the meeting to present this paper on proposals on the mechanism to inform Education Committee of issues and trends that arise from the investigation and prosecution of cases within the GOsC's fitness to practise procedures.
8. It was suggested that feedback is provided once a year to report on any identifiable trends or difficulties in interpreting competencies. It was felt that waiting once a year may not be sufficient and that panel Chairs should be charged to bring to the Education Committee's attention immediately possible trends or problems that had been identified and which might need earlier attention.
9. There was a brief discussion on how to capture problems identified by patients, and the Regulation Manager explained that there was already a logging system in place. It was stated that a group had created a classification system just for osteopaths which would be able to map identified problems more appropriately.
10. It was suggested that information should be gathered from similar health care professions such as chiropractors to see if there were any similar trends.
11. The Committee agreed that, subject to making the changes discussed, it would consider approving the paper.

CHRE COMMISSION ON CLEAR SEXUAL BOUNDARIES – EDUCATION

12. The Head of Professional Standards informed the Committee about how the GOsC had disseminated this report to the profession, the OEIs and fitness to practise panels. The report aimed at professionals was published in The Osteopath. The Education report was circulated to the OEIs and the Fitness to Practise report was sent to the FTP panels.
13. It was suggested that as a way to try and influence osteopaths to stop making these types of mistakes, the GOsCs video be shown at all future conferences. It was confirmed that the video has been offered to all the OEIs to be shown to their students

and at least three schools have taken advantage of this offer. There was also a suggestion that the Principals of the OEl's should be made aware of the prevalence of this issue and be strongly encouraged to provide the video to their students.

14. Professor Stone explained that she had in the past presented on sexual boundary issues at the request of various bodies who wished to draw on the expertise she had acquired in compiling a report on the issue for the CHRE. She offered to make this expertise available to the OEl's. It was agreed that, should this offer be taken up, the expertise would be made available to all OEl's at a meeting convened by the GOsC. And, to avoid any conflict of interest, Professor Stone accepted that this would be on a no-fee basis. It was agreed to add this issue to the next OEl meeting agenda in March 2010.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15. None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

16. Thursday 18 March at 2.00pm.