

Education Committee
18 March 2010
Public session

Professional Standards Department report

<u>Classification</u>	Public
<u>Purpose</u>	To note
<u>Issues</u>	<p>This paper reports on the work undertaken by the Professional Standards department and any matters arising since the last report to the Education Committee dated 15 December 2009.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to note developments.</p>
<u>Financial & Resourcing Implications</u>	None arising directly from this paper.
<u>Equality & Diversity Implications</u>	None arising from this paper.
<u>Communications Implications</u>	None arising from this paper.

Annexes

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Summary

1. This paper reports on the work undertaken by the Professional Standards Department and any matters arising since the last report to the Education Committee (EdC) dated 15 December 2010.

Report

Revalidation

2. On 9 February 2010, interviews were held to select a tender for the Revalidation Work Programme. There were two suitable proposals and after interviewing both candidates, the tender from KPMG was selected.
3. At the Council meeting held on 18 November 2009, it was decided to form a Revalidation Standards and Assessments Working Group (RSAG) and the first meeting of this group took place on 18 February 2010.
4. The focus of this meeting was to consider a proposal for a standards and evidence framework for revalidation; to consider the specific experience and skills needed by the experts in assessment to draft the assessment criteria to determine whether the standards had been met and how to get hold of the expertise require to do job. The group also began to look at the different forms of evidence that osteopaths might draw on as evidence for revalidation. A note of the meeting will be placed on the public section of the GOsC website when it has been finalised.
5. Advertisements for the Assessment Expert have been placed in a variety of media and interviews are planned for 18 March 2010.
6. On 11 February 2010 a meeting was held with the staff from the General Dental Council (GDC), the General Optical Council (GOC) and the shadow General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) to discuss their revalidation processes. The purpose of the meeting was to get a sense of progress from other similar regulators. Implementation of revalidation was planned for 2013 for the GDC and the GOC. Other issues discussed included progress updates on work on risk, evidence and models. We have agreed to keep in touch.
7. On 16 February 2010 the Head of Professional Standards attended a very useful event hosted by the GOC on Revalidation. The purpose of the event was to present emerging work on risk in optometry and work on the use of employer appraisal in revalidation. Next the views of participants were sought on what an optimum revalidation scheme would look like from their perspective. No draft model was presented. The participants were effectively presented with a blank piece of paper. In the London event, this approach appeared to work well and a number of useful points came out particularly about the types of evidence that might work for revalidation. It was interesting that a number of practitioners suggested performance assessment evidence for revalidation in the London meeting. However, we are advised that the tone of other meetings had been more challenging.
8. On 17 February 2010, a meeting was held with the staff from the Health Professionals Council to discuss progress with both Councils' revalidation procedures. It was

confirmed that the Department of Health were content with the HPCs progress on revalidation. They are currently undertaking a variety of projects to help them determine whether revalidation is necessary. It was a particularly useful meeting as they have a significant proportion of registrants who practice privately (including physiotherapists) and therefore cannot rely on NHS standards when devising their Revalidation scheme.

Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)

9. On 22 January 2010, a meeting was held with the QAA as part of the new contract negotiations. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the specification and the initial costings provided by the QAA and to identify areas of additional costs and savings.
10. Areas covered in the meeting include:-
 - a. Identifying areas of required improvement in the QA of RQ process through feedback and evaluation both internally and externally.
 - b. Discussion of the draft specification (including additional requirements of further recruitment and training of Visitors, revision of the Handbook, a formal process to follow up conditions and analysis of Annual Reports) with the Education Committee and F and GP and to be sent to the QAA.
 - c. Identifying the potential additional costs required to ensure that the RQ continues to remain evidence of meeting the requirements in the Standard of Proficiency and Code of Practice.
 - d. Receiving initial costings from the QAA.

Osteopathic Practice Framework (Scope of Practice)

11. The BOA has recently provided the GOsC with a draft copy of their proposed Scope of Practice document. A further paper will be presented to the Education Committee once an initial review of the document has been undertaken.
12. The Professional Standards Manager recently attended a meeting of the European Scope of Practice Working Group in Paris and a report on that meeting will be presented at the next Education Committee meeting.

Research

16. The Head of Professional Standards and the Head of Policy and Communications met with staff at the GMC on 1 February 2010 to discuss the GMC / ESRC Research Programme and to discuss areas of good practice and 'know-how' which we may wish to take on board in our own research programme. We agreed to keep in touch and to continue to share findings.

Project updates

17. All other project updates are provided elsewhere on this agenda.

Recommendation

18. The Education Committee is asked to note the report and raise any questions by email with the Head of Professional Standards: **fbrowne@osteopathy.org.uk**.