

Education Committee
18 March 2010
Public session
Review of Standard of Proficiency and Code of Practice

<u>Classification</u>	Public
<u>Purpose</u>	To Note
<u>Issues</u>	<p>This paper provides an update of progress on the revision of the standard of proficiency and the Code of Practice.</p> <p>The Committee is invited to note the progress</p>
<u>Financial & Resourcing Implications</u>	None
<u>Equality & Diversity Implications</u>	None
<u>Communications Implications</u>	None
<u>Annexes</u>	None

Summary

1. This paper provides an update of progress on the revision of the standard of proficiency and the Code of Practice.

Background

2. Last year, we consulted the profession on proposed revisions to the Osteopathic Practice Standards, formerly the standard of proficiency, which set out the requirements for safe and competent osteopathic practice.
3. We received 49 responses to the consultation. The findings are summarised in this report but, given the low response rate, these conclusions could not be generalised across the whole profession.
4. The consultation analysis did, however, highlight an overlap of the issues identified in the first stage of the Code of Practice consultation and in the consultation on Osteopathic Practice Standards. There was no clear delineation between matters that related to the Code and those that related to the standard of proficiency: at least from the perspective of those responding to the consultation.
5. At their meeting on 19 January 2010, Council considered the purpose of these two documents from the perspective of all stakeholders, the findings from the Osteopathic Practice Standards consultation, and the low response rate from that consultation. They concluded that a further round of consultation would be necessary. We will, therefore, be consulting all our stakeholders again later in the year.
6. In the next round of consultation, we propose to bring together the revised Code of Practice and the Osteopathic Practice Standards. The advantages of such an approach are:
 - a. Respondents will require less time to complete a single consultation questionnaire, and the presentation of the two key osteopathic standards documents together will demonstrate their complementarity.
 - b. The core professional requirements will all be accessible in one place.
 - c. The Osteopathic Practice Standards and Code of Practice will share a common structure and terminology.
 - d. Closer alignment of the two standards documents will help to identify any gaps in the competence and conduct framework.
 - e. Opinion can be sought on whether this model of closely aligning the Practice Standards and Code should be retained for the final publication.
7. This approach may push back the timetables for publication of the revised Code of Practice and Osteopathic Practice Standards, but Council considered it important to get the regulatory framework right for the benefit of all our stakeholders.
8. At the same time, through the Revalidation Standards and Assessment Group, we are formulating a standards and assessment framework which outlines the standards to be assessed for revalidation, the assessment criteria and the evidence which can support revalidation. It makes sense that these standards mirror the structure and content of the

Osteopathic Practice Standards and the Code of Practice to ensure consistency and to improve clarity for osteopaths. This will be done, in draft, using the same domains (or categories) in the first instance.

9. The restructuring of the existing content of the draft Code and the Osteopathic Practice Standards into domains will be presented to Council at its meeting on 14 April 2010 for consideration. Formal consultation is planned in the latter half of 2010.

Recommendation

10. The Committee is asked to note this report.