

Education Committee
13 June 2012
Education Committee Annual Report 2011-2012

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issues	None
Recommendation:	To agree the Annual Report of the Education Committee 2011-2012.
Financial and Resourcing Implications	None directly from this paper.
Equality and Diversity Implications	None
Communications Implications	None
Annexes	None
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Background

The Education Committee is required to submit a report to the Council each year on the activities it has undertaken. A draft of the report is outlined below for consideration.

Draft Education Committee Report

Annual Report of the Education Committee June 2011 to March 2012

Introduction

1. The Education Committee has a 'general duty of promoting high standards of education and training in osteopathy and keeping provision made for that training under review'. It also has a key role to give advice to the Council about educational matters. (See Section 11 of the Osteopaths Act 2011).

Summary of Activities since June 2011

2. The Education Committee met four times during the period under review – in June 2011, September 2011, December 2011 and March 2012. This report summarises the work of the Committee and includes decisions taken and actions recommended. Full minutes of all the meetings have already been reported to the Council.
3. This report also incorporates the work of Education Committee sitting as the Revalidation Standards and Assessment Group which also met on the same occasions in June 2011, September 2011, December 2011 and March 2012.

Guidance on Osteopathic Pre-registration Education

4. In December 2011, the Committee agreed a change in the emphasis of the guidance. Originally conceived as a 'core curriculum' for undergraduate education, the emphasis changed to 'guidance'. In March 2012, the Committee agreed the purpose of this project and the draft terms of reference for the project following considerable engagement with the Osteopathic Educational Institutions (OEs).

Student Fitness to Practise

5. In June 2011, the Committee received a report about the work of the fitness to practise committees from 1 January 2010 to 31 May 2011 to ensure that these findings were reflected in the thinking of the Committee.
6. In December 2011, the Committee received the results of the consultation on the student fitness to practise guidance. The development of the guidance included a wide consultation with a range of stakeholders. The development of guidance about

the management of health and disability in practice was undertaken by an external team – Prime Research Development Ltd – to reflect the appropriate expertise needed in this area. The Committee agreed to publish the guidance about the management of health and disability in practice, the student fitness to practise guidance and the consultation analysis.

7. The following guidance was published on our website in March 2012:
 - a. Student fitness to practise: Guidance about Professional Behaviours and Fitness to Practise for Osteopathic Students.
 - b. Student fitness to practise: Guidance for Osteopathic Educational Institutions.
 - c. Students with a Disability or Health Impairment: Guidance for Osteopathic Educational Institutions.
 - d. Guidance for Applicants and Students with a Disability or Health Impairment.

8. In March 2012, as part of a programme to implement the guidance effectively. The Committee also endorsed the Professionalism in Osteopathy Research Project Pilot undertaken by Sue Roff, an expert in education, using monies saved in the production of the Student Fitness to Practise guidance. The work has involved all of the OEIs. We are working in partnership with all to explore the utility of this kind of mechanism to support the teaching and learning of professional behaviours at undergraduate level. At the conclusion of this work, during the 2012-13 year, the Committee should be able to confirm:
 - GOsC owned tools for measuring professionalism and for teaching and learning professional behaviours in context.
 - GOsC owned tools based on scenarios, to contribute to the Osteopathic Practice Standards implementation strategy.

Preparedness to Practise

9. During the course of the year, the Committee oversaw the Preparedness to Practise research led by Professor Della Freeth of Queen Mary, University of London. This research explored perceptions of preparedness from the perspectives of students, new graduates and colleagues of new graduates in the work place to explore issues around the transition from student to practitioner. Activities included an update meeting on 12 September 2011 attended by members of the Education Committee, Research Strategy Working Group, OEIs and also osteopaths in practice.

10. The Committee considered and agreed to publish the final report in March 2012. The report has a range of complex findings that the Committee will consider further during 2012-13 and which will feed into their work on Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-registration Education and also the development of proposals on CPD and revalidation.

Quality Assurance

Preliminary Quality Assurance Review

11. In September 2011, the Education Committee concluded a preliminary review of the Quality Assurance (QA) process used to ensure that 'Recognised Qualifications' (RQs) are awarded only to those students who meet the required standards. This review was confined to enhancements that could be contained within the current legislative framework.
12. The review process began in 2009 drawing on the findings of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) evaluations of the RQ review visits, feedback from the OEIs during our regular meetings and the CHRE Report on Quality Assurance to identify potential areas within the current process that could be enhanced. These areas included the need:
 - a. For a statement about the purpose of the quality assurance review and identification of the links between public safety and public protection.
 - b. For explicit incorporation of the views of interested parties including students, patients and members of the public.
 - c. For better co-ordination of processes.
 - d. For a competence based Review Visitor specification.
 - e. For clear transparent processes including the follow up of conditions linked to recognition.
 - f. For streamlining and providing feedback on annual reports ensuring that the purpose is clear to all – not collecting unnecessary data.
13. The areas were addressed throughout the review and included the following:
 - a. Revised Handbooks for Review Visitors and for OEIs following public consultation.
 - b. Published protocols on unsolicited information and more efforts to ensure that the views of all stakeholders including patients and the public feed into each review.
 - c. A more connected, ongoing process linking information on annual reports and review visit reports by including action plans for the fulfilment of conditions attached to recognition as part of the process. Incorporation of expert analysis and feedback on annual reports submissions from the OEIs, utilising both GOsC and QAA expertise.
 - d. Revised specification for Review Visitors; recruitment and training of Review Visitors.
 - e. Revision of the Annual Report template.

14. In March 2012, the Committee considered a preliminary scoping paper looking at issues related to a more fundamental review of QA involving substantive changes which may require further legislative change. This paper also looked at the issues posed through accreditation of osteopathic education delivered internationally. This work will continue through the 2012-13 year.

Streamlining the process for gaining Privy Council approval

15. As a result of lengthy delays to obtain Privy Council approval for RQs, the Committee noted the steps taken with the Department of Health to streamline the RQ process. This has reduced the time taken to award RQs from over 12 months to less than one month in one case.

Annual Reports

16. In June 2011, the Committee considered the QAA's expert analysis of the Annual Reports submitted by the OEIs for the year 2010 and agreed the positive and developmental feedback to all the OEIs. This was the first time that comprehensive feedback had been provided to the OEIs and reflected their concern they didn't receive feedback on the Annual Reports submitted in previous years.
17. In March 2012, the Committee considered the expert analysis of the Annual Reports submitted by the OEIs for 2011 and agreed the positive and developmental feedback to all the OEIs. The timetable for providing feedback was brought forward to enable feedback to the OEIs to be more timely and therefore more effective.

Recognised qualifications

18. During the course of the year, the following qualifications were recognised or renewed based on Visitors Reports prepared by the QAA:
- New Master of Osteopathy at Swansea University from 15 December 2011 to 14 December 2014.
 - Renewal of Master of Osteopathy, Bachelor of Osteopathy and BSc Osteopathy at Oxford Brookes University from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2016.
19. During the course of the year, as part of our active approach to monitoring conditions, including the review of evidence in relation to specific RQ conditions and matters pertaining to generic RQ conditions, the Committee considered and reviewed in relation to most OEIs on the following occasions:
- June 2011 – Review of nine Annual Reports and expert analysis from the QAA including reports in relation to general conditions.

- September 2011 – Consideration of reports and evidence submitted in relation to general or specific conditions for five OEIs.
- December 2011 – Consideration of reports and evidence submitted in relation to general or specific conditions for five OEIs.
- In January and February 2012, the Committee also considered matters in relation to four OEIs by email.
- March 2012 – Review of 10 Annual Reports and expert analysis from the QAA and the GOsC Head of Finance including evidence in relation to general and specific conditions.

Evaluation

20. The QAA has provided a further evaluation report for Recognition reviews undertaken during the period 2010-11 that the Committee noted in March 2012. This will feed into our commitment to continually evaluate and enhance the quality assurance process.

Major QA Review

21. In March 2012, the Committee considered a high level paper about International Osteopathic Educational Institutions. The Committee considered the arguments about further development of a policy to quality assure qualifications outside the UK and considered some key questions in terms of the scoping of the major review of quality assurance planned for 2012-13.

Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS)

22. During the course of the year, the Committee has supported the development of an extensive programme of activities to ensure the implementation of the Osteopathic Practice Standards. Particular activities are highlighted as follows:
- a. In December 2011, the Committee launched an invitation to tender for the revision of the GOsC registration assessments so that they are mapped against the Osteopathic Practice Standards by 1 September 2012.
 - b. In March 2012, the Education Committee noted the appointment of the QAA to revise the registration assessments and supporting materials and agreed to delegate the approval of the revised materials to a smaller group of the Committee to ensure that the materials were ready for September 2012.
 - c. The Committee also noted the steps taken to train all existing and new QAA and registration assessors during the year.
 - d. The Committee also noted the e-learning development taking place to support the implementation of the Osteopathic Practice Standards.
 - e. The Committee noted the Osteopathic Practice Standards Implementation Strategy and activities in relation to all groups of stakeholders including:

Osteopaths, osteopathic special interest organisations, patients and the public, GOsC Assessors (including registration assessors, QAA assessors and those involved in fitness to practise), students, newly qualified graduates, other regulators, the four UK health departments and other related organisations.

CHRE

23. In September 2011, the Education Committee noted the findings of the 2011 Performance review and noted the ways in which the issues to be followed up had been addressed in the 2011-2012 Work programme of the Committee.

UKBA

24. The Committee noted the work of GOsC in working with the United Kingdom Border Authority to ensure that the GOsC/QAA review did satisfy their requirements for educational oversight. The position had previously been that the GOsC 'recognition' and Privy Council approval of qualifications was not sufficient to satisfy the UKBA that their educational oversight was sufficient or genuine. However, as a result of the work of the executive, the issue was now resolved avoiding the need for further costly oversight of the OEIs.

Consultation responses

25. In December 2011, the Committee agreed the response to the General Medical Council's Good Medical Practice consultation and particularly provided the opportunity to support the guidance; to emphasise the importance of respect for other professions and effective professional relationships throughout the patient journey – both within the NHS and the independent sector; and to explain about osteopathy and osteopathic education and training.

Revalidation and CPD

26. In June 2011, The Education Committee, sitting as the Revalidation and Standards Assessment Group oversaw the launch of the Revalidation Pilot and the CPD Discussion Document for consultation.
27. In September 2011, the Education Committee endorsed the strategy for generating debate about the proposals in the CPD Discussion Paper.
28. In December 2012, the Committee received an update incorporating the plans for recruitment of the revalidation pilot assessors, an update on numbers of pilot participants, an update on the feedback from the 15 pilot participant training workshops that had taken place during September and October, an update on the methods used to support the pilot participants during the pilot, an update on the 'frequently asked questions' from participants and an update on the KPMG

evaluation programme seeking information from participants, pilot assessors, staff and the assessment expert team about the benefits and the costs of the process.

29. In March 2012, the Committee received a further update about these matters listed in paragraph 28 above. They also received some headline results from the first data collection that had taken place in January 2012.

Engagement

30. During 2011-12, the Education Committee held four meetings with the OEIs. These meetings enabled the Education Committee to listen to the views of the OEIs and to keep the OEIs informed about developments. As part of these meetings, the OEIs were also able to take part in focus groups which facilitated their involvement in the Preparedness to Practise research and CPD Review.

31. A wide range of topics were discussed including:

- OPS implementation
- Quality assurance
- Guidance for osteopathic pre-registration education
- UK Border Agency
- Revalidation
- Continuing professional development review
- Preparedness to practise research
- QAA Benchmark Statement
- Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) funding
- Communications
- Student fitness to practise
- Liberating the NHS: Developing the Healthcare Workforce Proposals

32. During the period of this Report, the Chair of the Committee has also attended the following:

- Revalidation Pilot Assessor Short listing and Interviews on 11 January, 24 January, 27 January, 6 February, 6 March and 16 March 2012.
- Revalidation Pilot Assessor Training Day on 11 May 2012.
- Meeting with Adrian Barnes – Chair of COEI on 21 June 2011, 25 October, 12 January 2012 and 10 April 2012.
- Meetings of the GOsC/OEI Working Group, as Chair, on 19 May 2011, 27 September 2012, 17 November 2011 and 15 May 2012.

Recommendation: To agree the Annual Report of the Education Committee 2011-2012.