

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
16 MARCH 2011
QUALITY ASSURANCE PRELIMINARY REVIEW UPDATE

<u>Classification</u>	Public
<u>Purpose</u>	To Note
<u>Issue</u>	Changes to the processes of evaluating courses and requiring information from the Osteopathic Educational Institutions (OEIs). These are being undertaken as part of preliminary Quality Assurance (QA) review which includes the revision of the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Handbook setting out our QA method as well as the GOsC Annual Report that OEIs complete.
<u>Recommendation</u>	To note the stage of consultation on the GOsC/QAA Review Method Handbook and the draft Annual Report template.
<u>Financial and resourcing implications</u>	The consultation is included in the current QAA contract.
<u>Equality and diversity implications</u>	The consultation is being conducted by the QAA mainly through its website and is intended to be accessible to all. Those unable to access the document may contact a member of QAA staff directly by telephone or email to discuss.
<u>Communications implications</u>	Consultation will be required with our stakeholders and in particular, the osteopathic educational institutions (OEIs), prior to changes being agreed to the review method. The QAA are conducting the consultation as part of the contract we have signed.
<u>Annexes</u>	None
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Background

1. Our Corporate Plan 2010 to 2013 states that we will 'review the Quality Assurance (QA) procedures to ensure that they are fit for purpose.' We are undertaking a preliminary QA review (changes which do not require legislative change) and a QA options review (changes which do require legislative change).
2. At its meeting of 3 February 2011, Council agreed the recommendations of the Education Committee to begin a formal three month consultation on the following aspects of the preliminary QA review.

Consultation process

3. The QAA, launched the consultation on 18 February 2011 through its website www.qaa.ac.uk, and will manage the consultation on behalf of the GOsC. The GOsC seeks to ensure that all stakeholders are given the opportunity to respond to this consultation and has itself linked the consultation through its own website and issued letters to the following stakeholder groups:
 - Osteopathic Educational Institutions
 - Post-graduate Educational Institutions
 - British Osteopathic Association
 - Other healthcare regulators
 - Department of Health / Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence
4. It has also been agreed that the QAA will attend a meeting of the Council for Osteopathic Educational Institutions (COEI) to gain feedback directly from OEIs. This will take place on 9 May 2011.
5. We would also look to gain feedback from the following stakeholder groups:
 - Osteopathic students
 - Patients
 - Public
6. The consultation is available to all through the GOsC and QAA public websites. We have also issued the consultation to the Patient's Association and National Voices on advice as to which patient organisations to target.
7. We are exploring with the OEIs as to whether we can target students through the internal intranet sites used for them. We are also attempting to tap into student and patient groups that the OEIs have established in order to proactively seek this feedback. These ideas have initially been raised at the meeting with the OEIs which took place on 15 February 2011 and the OEIs have agreed to facilitate this through their groups if they are provided with materials. Separately, the OEIs have also agreed to issue a poster and flyer in their clinics to see if we might gain an electronic patient consultation group. If we get responses to our patient poster and flyer, then we will also ask this group to consider particular questions related to the QA consultation.
8. **Recommendation:** To note the stage f consultation on the GOsC/QAA Review Method Handbook and the draft Annual Report template.