

Osteopathic Practice Committee
14 May 2013
Summary of work and
future work plan for the Osteopathic Practice Committee

Classification	Public
Purpose	For noting
Issue	This paper provides a summary of the work undertaken in 2012 by the Education Committee, the Revalidation Standards and Assessment Group and Fitness to Practise Policy Committee during 2012. It also proposes the future work plan for the Osteopathic Practice Committee.
Recommendation(s)	To note: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the summary of work undertaken during 2012 by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Committee • Revalidations Standards and Assessment Group • Fitness to Practise Committee 2. the proposed programme of work the next year for the Osteopathic Practice Committee.
Financial and resourcing implications	None at this stage. Costs for proposed work will be included in the future papers relating to those items.
Equality and diversity implications	None.
Communications implications	None at this stage.
Annexes	Annex A – Education Committee Annual Report incorporating the work of the Revalidation Standards and Assessment Group.
Author	Kellie Green

Background

- 1 The Osteopathic Practice Committee has been established by Council following a review its governance structure. Its role is to contribute to the development of standards of osteopathic practice, policies aimed at ensuring registrants remain fit to practise and policies relating to fitness to practise procedures. Its full terms of reference are provided at Item 2 of the Agenda for this meeting.
- 2 The Committee will continue work that falls within its terms of reference and which was previously undertaken by the Education Committee and the Revalidation Standards and Assessment Group (RSAG) as well as the former Fitness to Practise Policy Committee. This paper provides a summary of the work that has been undertaken by these Committees and Groups in the last year, which relates to the remit of this Committee. A fuller report on the work of the Education Committee and the Revalidation Standards and Assessment Group (RSAG) is provided at Annex A. This report includes all the work of the Education Committee and the RSAG as it is important that the continuum of education is preserved by both the new Education and Registration Standards Committee and the Osteopathic Practice Committee moving forward. Please note, however, that the Education and Registration Standards Committee will continue to oversee all pre-registration work as provided in the revised terms of reference.
- 3 This paper also provides a future work plan for the Osteopathic Practice Committee (the Committee). The Committee is asked to note the contents of this paper.

Summary of work

Education Committee

- 4 The Education Committee (EdC) has met four times in the last year and considered and agreed the following.

Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS)

- 5 In June and September 2012, the EdC received updates on the implementation of the Osteopathic Practice Standards, which included:
 - a) Supplementary materials and resources to support registrants had been developed.
 - b) The programme of regional conferences, attended by almost 800 osteopaths, included a focussed on the Osteopathic Practice Standards.
 - c) A programme of meetings exploring options for linking CPD and the OPS with CPD providers and members of special interest societies.
- 6 In November 2012, the Education Committee noted an initial outline plan for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Osteopathic Practice Standards.

Continuing Professional Development, Osteopathic Education and Research

7 In September 2012, the EdC agreed to publish a statement clarifying the relationship between holding educational roles, osteopathic practice and continuing professional development. The statement confirmed that educational, research and development activities can form an important part of continuing professional development for osteopaths.

Revalidation Standards & Assessment Group (RSAG)

Continuing fitness to practise: Revalidation and CPD

8 The EdC, sitting as the RSAG, considered regular updates about the progress of the revalidation pilot and the ongoing responses to the CPD Discussion Document. These included:

- a) The appointment of the revalidation assessor pool
- b) The process for moderation of Revalidation folders
- c) Revalidation communications
- d) Feedback on the Revalidation Pilot
- e) Feedback on CPD
- f) The final evaluation and impact assessment of the pilot
- g) The findings from the analysis of the CPD Discussion Document consultation
- h) The CHRE / PSA report, An approach to assuring continuing fitness to practise based on right touch regulation principles

Fitness to Practise Policy Committee (FPPC)

9 The FPPC focussed on the development of policies and guidance that supported the Council's fitness to practise procedures, committees and work. In the last year, it has met on three occasions and considered and agreed the following.

Law Commission Consultation

10 In April 2012, it considered key questions posed in the Law Commission's consultation. In particular it considered and agreed the position on:

- a) Impairment
- b) Investigations
- c) Adjudication
- d) Sanctions and costs

Policy on referring registrants with convictions or cautions for drink or drug related offences for a health assessment

11 The FPPC considered a recommendation made by the PSA that any registrant who was cautioned or convicted for an offence that involved the commission of alcohol or drugs should be required to undergo a health assessment. It recommended a policy to Council, which was approved in December 2012.

Indicative Sanctions Guidance

- 12 The Professional Conduct Committee is supported by Indicative Sanctions Guidance, which has been reviewed and amended by the FPPC. Council in December 2012, approved the revised version for consultation. The consultation concludes on 31 May 2013.

Guidance on formulating Conditions of Practice Orders

- 13 Following a request from the Professional Conduct Committee and in conjunction with the review of the Indicative Sanctions Guidance, the FPPC developed new guidance for the PCC that focuses on the formulation of Conditions of Practice Orders. This guidance will sit alongside the revised Indicative Sanctions Guidance and it too was approved for consultation by Council in December 2012. The consultation concludes on 31 May 2013.

Professional Conduct Committee Rule 8

- 14 The FPPC consider and agreed that Rule 8 of the Professional Conduct Committee Procedure Rules should be put back into use. This recommendation as considered and approved by Council in March 2013.

Data Retention Policy, as it relates to the fitness to practise process

- 15 At its meeting in April 2012, the FPPC considered recommendations about the length of time data relating to fitness to practise proceedings and cases should be retained. It made recommendations, which were approved by Council in July 2012. The proposed Data Retention Policy has now been consulted on and a proposed final version will be considered by Council in June 2013.

Interim Suspension Order Guidance

- 16 In April 2012, the FPPC considered amending slightly the wording in the Interim Suspension Order Guidance to provide greater clarity. The Council approved the recommended changes at its meeting in July 2012.

Professional Conduct Committee Publication Policy

- 17 The FPPC reviewed the existing policy that covers the publication of PCC decisions. It has agreed radical changes to the existing policy and discussed in some detail the length of time that PCC decisions that an allegation had been well founded should be actively publicised for. The Committee has been asked to continue this discussion and a more detailed paper is provided at Item 4.

Health References

- 18 The FPPC considered whether it was appropriate to replace health reference form signed by a doctor with a self-health declaration form. It agreed this proposal, which was subsequently reported to the Council.

Future work

- 19 In addition to the items on the agenda for this meeting, the Committee, during the next year, will be asked the following.

Continuing fitness to practise: Revalidation and CPD

- 20 To consider proposals for the new Continuing Fitness to Practise Scheme, which includes revalidation and continuing professional development.

Osteopathic Practice Standards

- 21 To monitor the ongoing evaluation of the implementation of the Osteopathic Practice Standards and to develop additional guidance relating to consent.

Professional Indemnity Insurance

- 22 To consider draft Professional Indemnity Insurance Rules.

Professional Standards Authority – GOsC Performance Review

- 23 To consider relevant findings from the PSA's annual review of the GOsC's performance.

Notice to Parties

- 24 To review the Notice to Parties who are due to appear before the Professional Conduct Committee.

- 25 There may be additional items that arise during the course of the year.

Recommendations:

1. To note the summary of work undertaken during 2012 by:
 - Education Committee
 - Revalidations Standards & Assessment Group
 - Fitness to Practise Committee
2. To note the proposed programme of work the next year for the Osteopathic Practice Committee.