



Osteopathic Practice Committee
2 October 2014
Continuing fitness to practise

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issue	Consulting on the continuing fitness to practise Guidance.
Recommendation	<p>To consider the draft consultation documents, CPD Guidelines, Peer Discussion Review Guidelines and consultation strategy.</p> <p>To recommend that Council publishes the continuing fitness to practise guidance for consultation.</p>
Financial and resourcing implications	The costs of the development of the draft continuing fitness to practise model comprise c. £3000 which includes the cost of venue and refreshments. The costs of consultation are incorporated into our current budget and are expected to be around £5000.
Equality and diversity implications	Equality and diversity implications are being explored as part of the consultation.
Communications implications	Updates about the development of our framework have been provided to all our key stakeholders this year. Ongoing path-finding work is communicated to registrants through regular articles in the osteopath and key presentations across the UK.
Annexes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Draft consultation documents (the main consultation document and a shorter summary document)B. Draft CPD GuidelinesC. Draft Peer Review GuidelinesD. Draft consultation strategy
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Background

1. Our Corporate Plan 2013-16 sets out the statutory duty of the GOsC which is to 'develop and regulate the profession of osteopathy' in order to ensure public protection. Our aim as a regulator is: 'To fulfil our statutory duty to protect public and patient safety through targeted and effective regulation, working actively and in partnership with others to ensure a high quality of patient experience and of osteopathic practice.'
2. The work that we undertake to support registrants to remain up to date and fit to practise in accordance with the standards and the way in which we assure continuing fitness to practise is critical to the way that we achieve our aim of public protection.
3. Our Business Plan for 2014-15 states that we will 'Develop operational proposals within which the continuing fitness to practice framework could be realised with key osteopathic partners including iO, COEI, Osteopathic Alliance and regional groups.' We have also committed to consulting on these proposals this year.
4. In October 2013, Council considered research, the evaluation of our CPD Discussion Document and the evaluation and impact assessment of our revalidation pilot and agreed the draft framework for further discussion with key groups. Council also agreed that the draft framework and more detailed guidance should be subject to consultation during 2014. Detailed background information is available at http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/uploads/item_10_continuing_fitness_to_practise_final.pdf
5. At its last meeting, the Committee considered the draft CPD Guidelines and Peer Discussion Review Guidelines and the methods used to develop these.
6. This paper asks the Committee to consider the draft consultation document, the most recent versions of the CPD Guidelines and Peer Discussion Review Guidelines along with the draft engagement strategy during the consultation and to recommend to Council that it should issue the Guidelines for publication at its meeting in November 2014.

Discussion

The consultation document

7. The draft consultation documents are attached at Annex A. There is a longer consultation document and a shorter summary, primarily but not exclusively designed for patients. The Committee will see that the issues that they considered at the last meeting in July 2014, have now been fleshed out into a narrative along with key questions for consultation.
8. The documents remain draft as we have tested it out on members of the London Pathfinder Group on 3 September 2014. The version attached incorporates their suggestions. We will also be testing it out with members of the Lymm

Pathfinding Group on 27 September 2014. We expect that the leads of the Regional Communication Network meeting will have an opportunity to test an electronic form of the consultation ahead of their meeting which takes place on 3 October 2014.

9. One of the suggestions from the London pathfinding group was to remove the background development information from the consultation document and put this into a separate booklet sent to all osteopaths. We are attracted to this idea and intend to explore views about this in our forthcoming pathfinder groups ahead of Council on 6 November 2014.
10. The Committee are invited to provide feedback on the draft consultation documents and in particular, the consultation questions which are highlighted in italics in the contents section of the document.

The CPD Guidelines

11. The CPD Guidelines will continue to evolve as we move towards the consultation period. Key additions since the version considered by Council on 23 July 2014 including additional case studies from the Sutherland Cranial College, the British School of Osteopathy and a researcher's perspective. We have also ensured that the simplified CPD standards are unified throughout the document.
12. The Committee are invited to provide any further feedback on the draft CPD Guidelines.

The Peer Discussion Review Guidelines

13. The Peer Discussion Review Guidelines are also continuing to evolve as we move towards the consultation period. Key additions since the version considered by Council on 23 July 2014 include additional frequently asked questions and answers and also an additional case study which reflects a case study for carrying out a group peer discussion review.
14. The Committee are invited to provide any further feedback on the draft Peer Discussion Review Guidelines.

Recommendations:

1. To consider the draft consultation documents, CPD Guidelines, Peer Discussion Review Guidelines and consultation strategy.
2. To recommend that Council publishes the Continuing fitness to practise guidance for consultation.