

## Osteopathic Regional Communications Network

**Friday 3 October 2014**

Runnymede Hotel, Egham, Surrey

### Osteopathic Development Group (ODG) – update

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The Osteopathic Development Group (ODG) is a proactive initiative designed to drive the growth and promotion of modern osteopathy. This is an exciting landmark development, as it sets a historical precedent for all parties within osteopathy to unite and work together towards the improvement of osteopathy for the sake of health and patient care.

#### Background

Since the osteopathic profession achieved statutory regulation 20 years ago, the wider healthcare environment that osteopathy finds itself a part of has changed considerably. UK osteopathy is at a pivotal point in its evolution and the time has now come for the profession to take an active role in its own development in order to ensure a sustainable future.

In the spring and summer of 2012, an extensive consultation took place across the country at a series of regional debates to which the whole profession was invited. There was a significant amount of positive and productive feedback received from the profession. Encouraged by the widely expressed view that there was a need for all represented to work together to support the development of osteopathic practice, five of the largest osteopathic organisations met to discuss the emerging themes and convened the Osteopathic Development Group:

- **Institute of Osteopathy (iO)** – the professional body within osteopathy, who also hold the secretariat for the group
- **Council for Osteopathic Educational Institutions (COEI)** – representing the undergraduate colleges and course providers
- **General Osteopathic Council (GOsC)** – the regulatory body
- **National Council for Osteopathic Research (NCOR)** – the organisation responsible for promoting osteopathic research and research development
- **Osteopathic Alliance (OA)** – representing many of the postgraduate education institutions

From their initial discussions, a 'vision' for the future and an outline action plan was formulated, which is set out in 'A development agenda for UK osteopathy' (February 2013) [www.osteopathy.org.uk/uploads/a\\_development\\_agenda\\_for\\_uk\\_osteopathy.pdf](http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/uploads/a_development_agenda_for_uk_osteopathy.pdf). This venture is specifically designed to benefit individual osteopaths, the public and the profession as a whole, initially through the realisation of eight different project streams which include:

- **Leadership:** development of an osteopathic specific leadership training programme
- **Mentoring:** developing a mentoring programme for newly qualified osteopaths to assist them in the transition between the relatively supportive environment of the Osteopathic Educational Institution and clinical practice
- **Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP):** assessing the need for a supportive ACP framework
- **Career Development:** mapping the options available for career development in osteopathy
- **Regional Support:** developing a support package for Regional Societies to facilitate them in their role as dynamic local support networks for osteopaths.
- **Evidence:** strengthening the evidence base for osteopathic practice through the development of a standardised osteopathic Patient Reported Outcome Measure (PROMs)
- **International Collaboration:** investigating existing partnerships to ensure that they deliver the maximum benefit/return to UK osteopathy
- **Service Standards:** to explore the need to define a consistent osteopathic service quality standard that patients should be able to expect

The Osteopathic Development Group now meets regularly to discuss progress and strategic delivery in order to ensure the tangible fulfilment of these eight key priorities.

It is the intention that all interested parties will be fully engaged and kept informed throughout the entire process to ensure the widest input from individual osteopaths. The purpose of the meeting on 3 October 2014 is to provide an update on current activity that can be disseminated to Regional Society members and offer an opportunity for Regional Societies to contribute their views as representatives for their geographical locality.

For further information regarding the specific contribution of any of the stakeholder organisations, please contact any of them directly at the below addresses:

- Institute of Osteopathy: [boa@osteopathy.org](mailto:boa@osteopathy.org)
- General Osteopathic Council: [contactus@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:contactus@osteopathy.org.uk)
- Council of Osteopathic Educational Institutions: [c.hunt@bso.ac.uk](mailto:c.hunt@bso.ac.uk)
- National Council for Osteopathic Research: [www.ncor.org.uk/contact-us](http://www.ncor.org.uk/contact-us)
- Osteopathic Alliance: [enquiries@osteopathicalliance.org](mailto:enquiries@osteopathicalliance.org)

## **Project title: Leadership Development**

### **Activity to date:**

For this project we are exploring how we can develop a leadership training programme for the osteopathic profession. This would enable osteopaths in a range of contexts – in clinical settings, in education, in local or national osteopathic groups – to gain new skills and to apply them for the wider benefit of the profession. We would also seek, over time, to develop a network of individuals who can support each other in meeting challenges they face in a leadership context.

### **Consultation and engagement with profession and others to date:**

As part of the development of the programme we will be seeking feedback on the programme content and demand from within the osteopathic profession.

### **Next steps and planned activities:**

The project group which includes representatives from the General Osteopathic Council, the Institute of Osteopathy and osteopathic educational institutions are exploring a possible collaboration with the Open University to develop a bespoke leadership programme for the osteopathic profession.

### **How you can get involved:**

If you are interested in how this project is developing or would like to register a future interest in the leadership programme please contact the project team.

### **Contact details:**

Tim Walker: [twalker@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:twalker@osteopathy.org.uk)

## **Project title: Mentoring**

### **Activity to date:**

Mentoring to ease the transition from the relatively supportive environment of the undergraduate osteopathic educational institution to independent clinical practice has been highlighted by practising osteopaths as a key priority. This suggestion is supported by research such as that conducted by Freeth *et al*/who investigated new graduate's preparedness to practice.

The aim of this project is to investigate the mechanisms already in place that support new graduates, determine the most suitable approaches for mentoring recent graduates, and pilot a programme that can be integrated into the profession.

### **Consultation and engagement with profession and others to date:**

Questions regarding mentoring have been added to the 2014 Institute of Osteopathy census, which will soon be analysed. The project team consulted with the Regional Societies at the Regional Communications Network and the ODG during the development of the project plan.

### **Next steps and planned activities:**

The project team which includes representatives from the Institute of Osteopathy, the General Osteopathic Council, and osteopathic educational institutions has recently interviewed for and appointed an independent external consultant with experience in mentoring who will research how best to integrate mentoring into the profession and assure maximum benefit for osteopaths at all levels of practice. The initial research, which is expected to take approximately six months, will generate recommendations for a pilot designed to test acceptability and utility, set to be conducted soon after.

### **How you can get involved:**

The Institute of Osteopathy census is asking questions regarding current mentoring arrangements in osteopathy. Please do get involved with this and let us know your opinions on the subject, if you are involved in mentoring others or are receive mentoring yourself and which topics you might value support with. If you would like to register you interest in assisting with the pilot, either as a mentee or as a mentor, please contact the project team.

### **Contact details:**

Matthew Rogers: [matthew@osteopathy.org](mailto:matthew@osteopathy.org)

## **Project title: Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP)**

### **Activity to date:**

The ACP project is exploring whether additional infrastructure is needed around advanced clinical practice. The main focus for the project is to understand what would make it easier for patients to find the right practitioner for them. Funding has been secured through a grant from GOsC and an independent research team has been appointed. Work has started on the first stage of the research, including:

- an audit of osteopaths' websites to identify how practitioners communicate their areas of interest to prospective patients
- a literature review.

### **Consultation and engagement with profession and others to date:**

The project team consulted with the Regional Communications Network and the Osteopathic Development Group during the development of the project plan.

### **Next steps and planned activities:**

A series of interviews will be conducted with a range of stakeholders, including patients. Two questionnaires will be developed and sent out early next year – one for the profession and one for patients/the public. Once the research has been analysed, a draft scheme will be developed and feedback invited through a consultation with the profession.

### **How you can get involved:**

Watch out for the questionnaire/consultation exercise and encourage colleagues/patients to contribute.

### **Contact details:**

Ben Katz: [bkatz.oste@gmail.com](mailto:bkatz.oste@gmail.com)

## **Project title: Career Development**

### **Activity to date:**

There is at present no formal career structure for osteopaths and no common framework for recognising their development after registration. This has resulted in a lack of clarity around the career development options for osteopaths after they graduate. The focus of this project is to map the current pathways taken by osteopaths in terms of career growth and to evaluate the need for a more clearly defined career pathway in osteopathy.

### **Consultation and engagement with profession and others to date:**

Semi-structured interviews have been conducted with experienced osteopaths working in private practice, education and academia, the NHS, osteopathic promotion and regulation. These have been analysed for common themes. Questions regarding current career development structure have been added to the 2014 Institute of Osteopathy osteopathic census, which will soon be analysed. Initial scoping research has been conducted to investigate how this subject is addressed in other professions and how this might apply to osteopathy. The project team consulted with osteopathic regional societies through the Regional Communications Network and the Osteopathic Development Group during the development of the project plan.

### **Next steps and planned activities:**

Analysis of the results of the iO osteopathic census will be conducted. The project team which includes representatives from the Institute of Osteopathy, the Osteopathic Alliance and Council of Osteopathic Educational Institutions will meet on 9 October to discuss the findings.

### **How you can get involved:**

Please contact the project team directly with an expression of interest.

### **Contact details:**

Matthew Rogers: [matthew@osteopathy.org](mailto:matthew@osteopathy.org)

## **Project title: Regional Support**

### **Activity to date:**

The osteopathic regional societies are an invaluable source of continuous professional development and training in the UK. Typically set up and run by practitioners on a voluntary basis, these groups have a good reputation for delivering the core function of CPD provision, although many struggle for lack of resources and systems. The primary objective of this project is to identify and establish a range of practical and affordable support services for regional societies to ease the burden of organisation.

A survey of regional society secretaries earlier this year indicated that support would be valued in three key areas:

- creating a web presence through the delivery of microsites
- publicising their meetings, e.g. CPD events arranged by the society
- locating speakers willing to travel.

### **Consultation and engagement with profession and others to date:**

- Microsite: Maurice Cheng attended the Scottish Osteopathic Society's AGM in August 2014, and it is planned that theirs will be the first microsite to be built.
- An events calendar is now active on the Institute of Osteopathy (iO) website, [www.osteopathy.org](http://www.osteopathy.org). The intention is that regional societies will be able to add events to their own microsite, but also select those which they want to add to the iO calendar, to be seen by the widest possible osteopathic audience.
- There is a news and also a CPD section on the iO website; we can add items about specialist speakers and their availability, or maintain a database of regional society secretaries and circulate a news digest by email.

### **Next steps and planned activities:**

- Microsite and events calendar: a microsite template design has been given to Healthcare Learning, and we are awaiting confirmation when it will be ready (as at 18th September). The aim is to be able to preview it at the RCN meeting on 3 October. The cost of building the microsites and hosting is borne by the iO. It is also hoped the events calendar will be available to view by that date.
- If secretaries are willing, we will establish a database of their email addresses, and invite groups to contribute news items to iO communications, such as *Osteopathy Today*, our member magazine (published Jan/ Mar/ May/ Jul/ Sept/ Nov); and our e-newsletter, which is twice monthly. We could run a feature on a particular society, interviewing the secretary and highlighting the work they do on behalf of the profession. Publication dates will be flagged well in advance, and we hope secretaries will advise us of events or activities that they want to share.

### **How you can get involved:**

David Zerny will contact secretaries ahead of the meeting.

### **Contact details:**

David Zerny: [david@osteopathy.org](mailto:david@osteopathy.org)

**Project title: International collaboration****Activity to date:**

This project aims to bring together the wealth of information relating to activities taking place outside the UK in clinical, educational, research and other areas of osteopathic practice, which is currently scattered across multiple international osteopathic networks and alliances. To ensure maximum return and benefit to osteopathy in the UK we are proposing the development of a web portal/hub providing access to this information in one place.

**Consultation and engagement with profession and others to date:**

Discussions have taken place among the Osteopathic Development Group members, particularly around the rationale and structure of the proposed information portal.

**Next steps and planned activities:**

Consultation on this project will commence in autumn 2014.

**How you can get involved:**

If you are interested in how this project is developing please contact the project team.

**Contact details:**

Sarah Eldred: [seldred@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:seldred@osteopathy.org.uk)



**Project title: Service Standards****Activity to date:**

This project aims to develop a new set of service standards for the osteopathic profession, which would be voluntary in nature but would allow individual practices to demonstrate that they were providing a high quality service to patients.

This type of standard is akin to that of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in England (and the equivalent bodies in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales). The standards could be used to demonstrate service quality to patients, health insurers, NHS commissioners and others.

The standards would be entirely voluntary and not enforced by the GOsC.

A first draft of the standards has been produced, adapted for the osteopathic context from the work of the CQC and others.

**Consultation and engagement with profession and others to date:**

Discussions have taken place among the ODG members and wider consultation will take place shortly.

**Next steps and planned activities:**

Consultation on the proposed standards will commence in autumn 2014.

**How you can get involved:**

Please look out for the consultation and provide us with your input.

**Contact details:**

Tim Walker: [twalker@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:twalker@osteopathy.org.uk)