

Education and Training Panel

Standing Orders

1. Terms of Reference

- 1.1 The Education and Training Panel is to conduct one or more of the items of business of the Committee specified in rule 6(3) of The Health and Care Professions Council (Education and Training Committee) (Constitution) Rules 2023. These items of business are:
- a) considering visitors' reports and, if thought fit, approving the course of education or training, qualification or institution to which a report and observations (if any) relate;
 - b) considering and, if thought fit, approving a recommendation for a focussed review arising from the monitoring of an approved programme; and
 - c) considering focused review reports, and if thought fit, providing a continue to approve recommendation.
- 1.2 No other business can be conducted by the Education and Training Panel (the Panel), including the non-approval or withdrawal of approval from an approved programme. Any other business will be undertaken by the Education and Training Committee.

2. Membership and Quorum

- 2.1 The composition of the Panel is any two Committee members.
- 2.2 The quorum for a Panel is two members. Where a Panel decision is papers-based, this requires the approval of any two members.
- 2.3 If, during a meeting, a quorum ceases to exist, the meeting must be dissolved and all remaining business adjourned to the next meeting of a Panel.

3. Chair

- 3.1 The members of a Panel must nominate one of their number to act as Chair of a meeting or where a decision is papers-based.
- 3.2 The Chair will sign any decision notices of the Panel following a meeting or a papers-based decision.

4. Frequency and Notice of Meetings

- 4.1 The Panel will be convened as required, which will usually be monthly.

- 4.2 Panel meetings are only required for decisions that require discussion as set out in Standing Order 5.2.
- 4.3 A papers-based approval route for a Panel will be used for all other pre-defined decisions as set out in Standing Order 5.2, with Panel members confirming or rejecting such decisions through correspondence.
- 4.4 Where a Panel meeting is held the Secretary must give members at least seven days' notice of the time and place of a meeting. Failure to send notice of a meeting to a member does not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting.

5. Decision Making

- 5.1 The Committee and Panel shall make decisions based on a tier system set out as follows:
 - a) Tier 1 - Papers-based
 - b) Tier 2 - Panel meeting
 - c) Tier 3 - Committee meeting
- 5.2 The operation of each Tier is as follows:
 - a) Tier 1 – where only the visitors' view is presented to the Panel, and the executive considers there is no information which suggests that the Panel will make a decision other than the one recommended by the visitors, papers shall be shared with all Panel members, who have a set period of time to confirm their approval or rejection of the visitors' recommendations. The decision cannot relate to the non-approval or withdrawal of approval of a programme and can only relate to the items of business specified in these standing orders;
 - b) Tier 2 – Panel meetings shall be arranged in advance where the executive considers that discussion is likely to be required to make a decision. The decision cannot relate to the non-approval or withdrawal of approval of a programme and can only relate to the items of business specified in these standing orders;
 - c) Tier 3 – Items shall be added to existing Committee meetings or one item meetings or a resolution of the Committee without a meeting as permitted in Standing Order 12 shall be arranged where an urgent decision is required. Decisions in relation to the non-approval or withdrawal of approval of a programme or that are not items of business for a Panel as specified in these standing orders may be made by the Committee.

6. Agenda

- 6.1 The Secretary must issue an agenda for each meeting. Except in cases of urgency or where circumstances make it impracticable to do so, the agenda for a meeting and any accompanying papers must be sent to members at least seven days before the meeting.

7. Minutes of meetings

- 7.1 The Secretary must keep minutes of each meeting, which must include a record of the members present at that meeting. Draft minutes will be circulated promptly to all members of the Panel and attendees following the meeting, who will be invited to review these for factual accuracy.
- 7.2 The minutes of the meeting of any Panel will be approved (or approved subject to amendments) as an accurate record of that meeting by the Education and Training Committee at its next meeting. The approved minutes of a meeting, unless the contrary is proved, are conclusive proof of the proceedings of that meeting.

8. Conduct of Meetings

- 8.1 The order of business at a meeting must follow that set out in the agenda unless it is varied by the Chair with the consent of the meeting.
- 8.2 A member may only initiate a debate or move a motion on a matter which is not on the agenda with the consent of the Chair. All motions must relate to matters that are within or related to the functions of the Panel.
- 8.3 A member must speak to the subject under discussion. The Chair may call attention to any irrelevance, repetition or other improper conduct on the part of a member and, where the member persists in that conduct, may direct that member to cease speaking.
- 8.4 A ruling by the Chair on any question of order, whether or not provided for by the Standing Orders, is final and not open to debate.

9. Voting

- 9.1 Except where these Standing Orders specify otherwise, any question at a meeting is to be decided by a majority of the members present voting by a show of hands.
- 9.2 In the event of an equality of votes, the Chair is entitled to an additional casting vote.

10. Disorder

- 10.1 Members must comply with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council.
- 10.2 If, in the Chair's opinion, a member has persistently disregarded the ruling of the Chair or behaved in a manner which is obstructing the business of the meeting, the Chair may order that member to withdraw from the whole or part of the remainder of the meeting.
- 10.3 If a person other than a member interrupts the proceedings at any meeting, the Chair may order that person to be removed from the meeting or may order the part of the room which is open to the public to be cleared.

- 10.4 In the event of a disturbance which, in the Chair's opinion, prevents the orderly conduct of business, the Chair may adjourn the meeting for a period that the Chair considers appropriate.

11. Members' interests

- 11.1 Members must make a declaration of their personal interests in the form required by the Council (which must be published in the Council's Register of Members' Interests) and must ensure that their interests as set out in that Register are accurate and up to date.
- 11.2 The agenda for every meeting must include as an item of business the declaration of interests.
- 11.3 A member who has a personal interest in any matter under consideration at that meeting, whether or not declared in the Register of Members' Interests, must promptly disclose that interest to the meeting. If the interest is a prejudicial interest, the member must withdraw from the meeting during the Panel's consideration of that matter.

12. Virtual meetings

- 12.1 Meetings of a Panel should be held by electronic means where possible, without any number of the members participating in the meeting being required to be together at the same place.
- 12.2 Where a meeting is to be conducted by electronic means, the notice under Standing Order 4.4 must include the arrangements for members to access the meeting.
- 12.3 At a meeting held by electronic means, members must be able:
- a) to hear and be heard by (and, where practicable, to see and be seen by) the other participating members and any person invited to participate in the meeting; and
 - b) to be heard by (and, where practicable, seen by) any members of the public or the press attending the meeting.
- 12.4 At a meeting held by electronic means, the Chair is to determine the method by which votes are to be cast and Standing Order 9.1 does not apply.
- 12.5 Where practicable, the Panel must make arrangements (such as by telephone or video conference or live webcast or streaming) for the public and press to be able to attend remotely a meeting held by electronic means.

13. The Secretary

- 13.1 The Secretary to the Council, or any other person that the Secretary to the Council may appoint, is to be the Secretary to the Panel (the Secretary).