

**Education and Training Committee  
(16 February 2005)**

**Department of Education & Policy**

**Policy for Approving Qualifications for Aspirant Groups**

**Executive Summary and Recommendations**

**1. Introduction:**

Previous problems encountered with Council recognition of retrospective qualifications of certain professional groups coming onto the HPC Register, namely Speech and Language Therapists and Operating Department Practitioners, and an anticipation that such problems would continue to be experienced with all future aspirant groups have resulted in a need for a policy to ensure that all relevant, retrospective qualifications of any future aspirant group coming onto the Register are properly considered and approved by the Council prior to the opening of that part of the Register.

It is proposed that the application process for all aspirant groups should include a mapping of the proposed Standards of Proficiency for the aspirant group against sample curricula (generally three for each named qualification) for all current and retrospective qualifications as appropriate. Those qualifications which meet the Standards of Proficiency will be presented to the Education & Training Committee for approval (on behalf of Council) as UK-approved qualifications leading to eligibility to apply to come onto that part of the Register once it is opened.

It is proposed that the mapping of curricula to the SoPs should be undertaken by a Panel of not less than two people, to be identified by the Department of Education & Policy, comprising at least one educator and any other mix of an educator, employer and/or clinician working within the area(s) covered by the aspirant group.

**2. Decision**

The Committee is requested to **agree** a procedure for the approval of current and retrospective qualifications for aspirant groups, prior to that part of the Register opening, as follows:

- 2.1 A mapping of sample curricula (generally three for each named qualification) for current and retrospective qualifications is undertaken against the proposed Standards of Proficiency. Any qualification meeting the Standards of Proficiency would be presented to the Education & Training Committee for approval (on behalf of Council) as UK-approved qualifications leading to eligibility to apply to come onto that part of the Register once it is opened.
- 2.2 That such mapping is undertaken by a Panel of not less than two people, to be identified by the Department of Education & Policy, comprising at least one educator and any other mix of an educator, employer and/or clinician working within the area(s) covered by the aspirant group.

**3. Background information**

None

**4. Resource implications**

Executive time for the additional procedure in the application process for aspirant groups.

**5. Financial implications**

None

**6. Background papers**

None

**7. Appendices**

None

Karen Scott  
2 February 2005