Education and Training Panel - 27 September 2007

Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy Centre - Correction

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction
At the Education and Training Panel held on 2 August 2007, the MA in Music Therapy programme at Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy Centre was approved following an approval visit.

Unfortunately, there was an inaccuracy in the programme title listed on the visitors report and therefore in the programme title which was subsequently approved.

The title of the programme should have read 'Masters in Music Therapy' and not 'MA in Music Therapy'.

An amended visitors report has been attached.

Decision
The Panel is asked to retract the decision made at the Education and Training Panel held on 2 August 2007 and approve the Masters in Music Therapy programme at Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy Centre.

Background information
Agenda of Education and Training Panel held on 2 August 2007
Minutes of Education and Training Panel held on 2 August 2007

Resource implications
None

Financial implications
None

Appendices
Visitors report

Date of paper
12 September 2007

Health Professions Council

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	Nordoff Robbins Music therapy Centre – City University London
Name and titles of programme(s)	Masters in Music Therapy
Mode of Delivery (FT/PT)	FT
Date of Visit	13th – 14th February 2007
Proposed date of approval to commence	September 2007
Name of HPC visitors attending (including member type and professional area)	Mr John Strange – Head Music Therapist – Newham Music Trust Mr John Fulton – Art Psychotherapist – NHS Ayrshire & Arran Mr Barry Falk – Art Psychotherapist – Childrens Catholic Society
HPC Executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Miss Daljit Mahoon
Joint panel members in attendance (name and delegation):	Ms Helen Patey – Head of Clinical Services Ms Sophie Hampton – Centre Administrator

Scope of visit *(please tick)*

New Programme	☐
Not been visited since publication of QAA Benchmarks	☒
Major change to existing programme	☐
Visit initiated through Annual Monitoring	☐

Confirmation of meetings held

	Yes	No	N/A
Senior personnel of provider with responsibility for resources for the programme	☒	☐	☐
Programme team	☒	☐	☐
Placements providers and educators	☒	☐	☐
Students (current or past as appropriate)	☒	☐	☐

ALL CONDITIONS MET

Confirmation of facilities inspected

	Yes	No	N/A
Library learning centre	☒	☐	☐
IT facilities	☒	☐	☐
Specialist teaching accommodation	☒	☐	☐

Confirmation that particular requirements/specific instructions (if any) of the Education and Training Committee that have been explored e.g. specific aspects arising from annual monitoring reports.

Requirement (please insert detail)	Yes	No	N/A
1	☐	☐	☒
2	☐	☐	☒
3	☐	☐	☒

Proposed student cohort intake number please state	10

ALL CONDITIONS MET

The following summarises the key outcomes of the Approvals event and provides reasons for the decision.

CONDITIONS

Condition 1

SET 4. Curriculum Standards
4.1 The learning outcomes must ensure that those who successfully complete the programme meet the standards of proficiency for their part of the Register.
4.2 The programme must reflect the philosophy, values, skills and knowledge base as articulated in the curriculum guidance for the profession.
SET 3. Programme management and resource standards
3.10 A system of academic and pastoral student support must be in place.

Condition:

The provider must make every effort to ensure that each student's first period of Personal Music Therapy does not overlap with the start of her/his external Personal Psychotherapy, nor the second period of Personal Music Therapy with the last sessions of Personal Psychotherapy. In the event that an overlap appears likely to be unavoidable, the student concerned must be advised to discuss the matter with both of her/his therapists and ensure that any appropriate communication that may be required is undertaken in order to ensure protection of all parties in advance of the said overlap. The programme team must re submit documentation to ensure that this condition has been met.

Reason:

The Visitors appreciate the value, as elements of the professional training, of Personal Music Therapy within the course and of Personal Psychotherapy external to the course (a requirement under HPC), of whatever kind, subject to approval/recommendation by the awarding Institution as indicated in the document relating to Personal Therapy (including the option of further music therapy) and the Visitors would wish to see both these elements of the training preserved in their present form. The Visitors were however unanimous that if the two forms of therapy, with different practitioners, were to overlap and thus run concurrently, this could pose a potential risk to students' psychological wellbeing. The Visitors recognise that overlaps may have occurred for only a small proportion of students, and are aware that with careful planning and timetabling it should be possible to avoid any future overlaps. Furthermore they understand that in some clinical circumstances, where communication between therapists is well managed, work on two or more domains may be indicated and this form of treatment may be effective. However, in the context of training and meeting the requirements of the SETs and SOPs, (in particular SOP 1a.6: - understanding the value of therapy in developing insight and self-awareness through their own personal experience) the Visitors felt that the mechanisms as to how this degree of communication might be implemented were not outlined in the documentation.

In order to minimise the risk, the Visitors recommend that the above condition should be set:

Condition 2:

SET 3. Programme management and resource standards
3.12 The resources provided, both on and off site, must adequately support the required learning and teaching activities of the programme.

Condition:
All course documentation should be checked, amended and re-submitted as necessary to conform with the information in the Validation Document, and where possible with its presentation therein, in order to create parity across the documentation.

Reason:
The Visitors found inconsistencies in recording course modules in the Validation Document and the Student Handbooks. They considered that the documentation led to difficulties in ensuring the SETs were met and expressed concern that it might lead to confusion for students interpreting the requirements of the modules.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

SET 6. Assessment standards
6.5 There must be effective mechanisms in place to assure appropriate standards in the assessment.

Recommendation:
The form on which the student's personal psychotherapist confirms attendance be amended to specify 30 sessions as the norm

Reason:

As regards the number of sessions of personal psychotherapy students should receive, the Visitors noted with satisfaction that although the HPC does not currently specify a number, the figure of 30 specified in the course documents accords with the curriculum guidance for the profession. However, the Visitors considered that a mechanism to assure compliance with the Personal Therapy component through training should be adequately recorded.

Recommendation 2

SET 3. Programme management and resource standards
SET 3.12. The resources provided, both on and off site, must adequately support the required learning and teaching activities of the programme
3.13 The learning resources, including the stock of periodicals and subject books, and IT facilities, including internet access, must be

appropriate to the curriculum and must be readily available to students and staff.
SET 4. Curriculum Standards
4.2 The programme must reflect the philosophy, values, skills and knowledge base as articulated in the curriculum guidance for the profession

Recommendation:
The indicative reading lists should be reviewed and amended so as to reflect more adequately the range of reading, particularly in the area of psychodynamic theory since students are expected to undertake to apply principles of Psychodynamic theory in practice.

Reason:
The Visitors noted with great satisfaction the scope and range of the library stock, but considered the indicative reading lists gave insufficient emphasis to the range of psychodynamic theory that informs practice in the Arts Therapies and Psychotherapy. They understood that students are actually encouraged to read beyond these lists. However the visitors considered that there would be merit in presenting reading lists that directly included such bibliographic references, hence the recommendation.

COMMENDATIONS

1) **The visitors were impressed with the accommodation and the range of study facilities, in particular with the technology and I.T., books and journals, the music and instruments, the high staff student ratio and the large body of qualified staff.**

2) **Organisation, communication and support for students is very good**

3) **All aspect of the programme are under regular review**

4) **Consistent commitment and involvement of the validating body to the development of the programme.**

The nature and quality of instruction and facilities meets the Standards of Education and Training.

We recommend to the Education and Training Committee of the HPC that they approve this programme (subject to any conditions being met).

Visitors' signatures:

Mr Barry Falk
Mr John Strange
Mr John Fulton

Date: 13/3/07