

Education and Training Committee – 8 September 2011

Hearing aid dispensers – List of approved programmes (current)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting on 10 March 2010, the Education and Training Committee agreed a list of currently approved programmes as well as a list of programmes which were approved historically for specific periods. The recommended lists were based on the approval information which was available from the Hearing Aid Council (HAC). These lists became effective from the date of the register opening (1 April 2010).
- 1.2 At its subsequent meeting on 31 March 2011, the Education and Training Committee agreed changes to the first intake dates for most of the approved programmes for hearing aid dispensers.
- 1.3 This paper seeks to update the Education and Training Committee on a further change to the approved programmes for hearing aid dispensers since its meeting on 31 March 2011. The Committee is asked to agree the amendment outlined in section 4.1.

2. Background information

- 2.1 Article 15(8) of the Health Professions Order provides that:

“(8) The Council shall maintain and publish a list of the courses of education and training, qualifications and institutions –
(a) which are for the time being approved under this Order: or
(b) which have been approved under this Order but which are no longer approved, together with a record of the periods in respect of which they were approved.”

- 2.2 Paragraphs (1) and (2) of Article 6 of the Health Care and Associated Professions (Hearing Aid Dispensers) Order 2009 provides that:

“(1) The HPC and the HAC shall enter into arrangements (which may include financial arrangements) to facilitate the introduction of arrangements for the regulation of hearing aid dispensers by the HPC arising out of this Order.”

“(2) The arrangements entered into under paragraph (1) shall include arrangements to ensure that all the names in the HAC register which are to be entered in the HPC register with effect from 1st April 2010 are so entered.”

- 2.3 In turn, paragraph 7 of the Health Care and Associated Professions (Hearing Aid Dispensers) Order 2009 outlines amendments to paragraph 1A of schedule 1(6) of the Health Professions Order 2001. The amendment of schedule 1(6) refers to the following definition:

“the HAC Register” means the register of dispensers of hearing aids maintained by the Hearing Aid Council under section 2(1)(a) of the Hearing Aid Council Act 1968.”.

- 2.4 Therefore, it is necessary for the Committee to maintain and publish lists of approved programmes for hearing aid dispensers. These lists should take into consideration the register transfer arrangements outlined above.

3. Amendments to the current list of approved HAD programmes

- 3.1 University College London – BSc Audiology
University of Bristol – BSc Audiology

The above mentioned programmes were confirmed by the HAC as approved programmes at the time of transfer of regulatory functions to the HPC. During the approval process each education provider confirmed the programme awards had never been available to students and did not confer eligibility to apply for registration. Furthermore each education provider confirmed HPC approval should be withdrawn in its entirety from these programmes.

- 3.2 University College London – MSc Audiology (with clinical competency certificate or certificate of audiological competence)

The above mentioned programme was confirmed by the HAC as an approved programme at the time of transfer of regulatory functions to the HPC. During the approval process the education provider confirmed the programme title was incorrect and should instead be ‘MSc Audiological Science (with clinical competency certificate or certificate of audiological competence)’.

4.0 Decisions

- 4.1 The Committee is therefore asked to agree to withdrawal approval in its entirety from the programmes listed below.

Education provider	Programme	Mode of study
University College London	BSc Audiology	Full time
University of Bristol	BSc Audiology	Full time

4.2 The Committee is also asked to agree the change in programme title for the programme listed below:

Education provider	Current programme title	Amended programme title
University College London	MSc Audiology (with clinical competency certificate or certificate of audiological competence)	MSc Audiological Science (with clinical competency certificate or certificate of audiological competence)

Background information

- 'Changes to HAD approved programmes first intake dates' – Education and Training Committee Paper (Enclosure 14), 31 March 2011.
- 'Hearing Aid Dispensers – list of approved programmes' - Education and Training Committee Paper (Enclosure 9), 10 March 2010.

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

None

Date of paper

23 August 2011