

Education and Training Committee

Public minutes of the 53rd meeting of the Education and Training Committee held as follows:

Date: Tuesday 12 June 2012

Time: 10:30 am

Venue: The Council Chamber, Health Professions Council, Park House, 184 Kennington Park Road, London SE11 4BU

Members:

Eileen Thornton (Chair)
Jo-anne Carlyle
Mary Clark-Glass
June Copeman
John Donaghy
Helen Davis
John Harper
Jeff Lucas

Stuart Mackay
Arun Midha
Penny Renwick
Robert Smith
Jois Stansfield
Annie Turner
Joy Tweed
Diane Waller

In attendance:

Alison Croad, Policy Officer
Brendon Edmonds, Head of Education Development
Anna van der Gaag, Chair of the Council
Michael Guthrie, Director of Policy and Standards
Abigail Gorringe, Director of Education
Steve Rayner, Secretary to the Committee
Marc Seale, Chief Executive
Charlotte Urwin, Policy Manager

Part 1 – Public Agenda

Item 1 Chair's welcome and introduction

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed the Committee and members of the public gallery to the meeting.

Committee membership

- 1.2 The Committee noted that this would be the final committee meeting for John Harper and Annie Turner. The Chair thanked John and Annie for their contributions to the work of the Committee.
- 1.3 The Committee also noted that Gerald Armstrong-Bednall's term had come to an end in May. Following many years working with the HPC and with the Hearing Aid Council Gerald had decided not to apply for reappointment to the Committee.
- 1.4 The Chair would be undertaking a recruitment campaign, administered by the Secretariat, for three vacant positions on the Committee over the summer. The HPC would be seeking to appoint an educationalist or practitioner with involvement in higher education from the following parts of the Register: Hearing Aid Dispenser; Occupational Therapist and Social Worker in England (the positions would be due to begin after the transfer of the register from the General Social Care Council).
- 1.5 The vacancies would be advertised from mid-June to the beginning of August, with interviews in the second week of September. Appointments would be made by the Council in October.

Item 2 Apologies for absence

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Stephen Hutchins, Jeff Seneviratne, Stephen Wordsworth and from Marc Seale, Chief Executive.

Item 3 Approval of agenda

- 3.1 The Committee approved the agenda.

Item 4 Declaration of members' interests

- 4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

Item 5 Minutes of the meeting of 8 March 2012 (ETC 25/12)

- 5.1 The minutes were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Item 6 Matters arising from previous meetings (ETC 26/12)

- 6.1 The Committee noted the list of actions agreed at previous meetings.

Item 7 Director of Education's report (ETC 27/12)

- 7.1 The Committee received a paper from the Director of Education detailing the work of the Education Department (the Department) between March and June 2012, providing updates on ongoing projects and statistics on the approval and monitoring process.

Social work

- 7.2 As an update to the published report, the Committee noted that bookings for Education Seminars planned for education providers delivering social work programmes in England had risen: to around 90 for the London seminar; and to around 50 each for the Birmingham and Leeds seminars.
- 7.3 The Committee noted that the format of London seminar had been changed to accommodate higher numbers of attendees. Consideration would also be given to adding additional sessions if demand continued to rise.
- 7.4 A second set of Education Seminars would be tailored towards the first group of social work in England programmes that were due to be visited in the academic year 2012-13. The Executive would monitor attendees to these sessions to encourage all education providers due to be visited in the 2012-13 academic year to attend.
- 7.5 The Committee noted the Director's report.

Item 8 Education annual report (ETC 28/12)

- 8.1 The Committee received a paper for discussion/approval from the Executive providing the draft text of the sixth Education annual report, which presented statistical information relating to the approval and monitoring process between September 2010 and August 2011.
- 8.2 The report had been developed to provide an insight into the HPC's work in approving and monitoring programmes, and comprised:
- core information for each approval or monitoring process for the year;
 - analysis of significant trends from previous years;
 - analysis of variances from established trends; and
 - themed reviews of particular features of the work conducted over the year.
- 8.3 The Committee noted that the education systems and process review major project would have an impact on future Education annual reports, as it would enable the Executive to generate and access information from the education processes for analysis more quickly and efficiently.

- 8.4 The Committee agreed that the report provided an important assurance mechanism for the approval and monitoring system.
- 8.5 The Committee recommended that the following points should be considered before publication:
- 8.5.1 An executive summary should be added to the report to identify headlines and lessons from the report.
 - 8.5.2 The executive summary should mention the relatively low numbers of complaints the department received regarding the system.
 - 8.5.3 The first paragraph on page 14 of the report should be amended to provide further explanation of how the model of education that HPC uses would generate new programmes.
 - 8.5.4 The third paragraph of the conclusion on page 46 should be expanded to provide further explanation of the innovative uses of monitoring processes.
- 8.6 The Committee noted the conclusion on page 17 of the report regarding issues education providers faced in meeting standards around practice placements. The Committee noted that as funding arrangements for education providers and employers changed, practice placements would become harder to arrange and administer.
- 8.7 It was an important consideration for education providers when accepting new students that there were enough practice placements available for those students to complete their courses. The Committee noted that it would be important for professional bodies to play a key role in helping to ensure that the numbers of quality placements were adequate.
- 8.8 The Committee agreed to discuss how to consider the issue of placement education further as part of the annual work-plan and strategy discussions in November.
- 8.9 The Committee approved the Education annual report 2011 for publication, subject to legal scrutiny and minor editorial amendments and the consideration of the Committee's discussions under paragraph 8.5.

Item 9 Consultation on service user and carer involvement in education and training programmes (ETC 29/12)

- 9.1 The Committee received a paper for discussion from the Executive providing a draft consultation document on the rationale for amending the standards of education and training and guidance to make service user and carer involvement an express requirement for approved programmes.
- 9.2 The consultation document included the text of the proposed standard and guidance.

- 9.3 The Committee had discussed the topic on a number of occasions, most recently at its meeting of March 2012, at which meeting the Committee had agreed that a consultation should be held on amending the standards.
- 9.4 The Committee discussed the consultation document, during which discussion the following points were raised:
- 9.4.1 The document could benefit from the addition of the HPC's definition of the term 'service user'.
 - 9.4.2 For some HPC professions, and traditionally in the HPC's processes, the term 'service user' had been a way of describing anyone who came into contact with the professional work of a registrant. This could include colleagues, clients, patients and students, and would also be used to describe carers for many of the HPC's professions.
 - 9.4.3 The Committee noted that some stakeholders considered the role of carer to be conceptually distinct from those roles described in the HPC's definition of service users.
 - 9.4.4 The HPC should retain the term 'service user'. However, guidance on the definition and use of the term should make it clear that the inclusion of carers and indeed other groups under the description 'service users' was for the purposes of the HPC's processes. Where appropriate the guidance should acknowledge that some stakeholders consider these roles to be distinct from those of other people coming into contact with HPC registrants.
 - 9.4.5 Education providers might be encouraged, as part of the consultation, to provide examples of effective practice in the involvement of service users which could be of use to the HPC in communicating its requirements.
 - 9.4.6 Paragraph 6 in the guidance document at page 13 was prescriptive, and may lead to education providers creating unnecessary committees and administrative processes. Consideration should be given to removing this paragraph.
- 9.5 The Committee agreed that a consultation should be held on amending the standards of education and training and guidance to require service user involvement in approved programmes.
- 9.6 The Committee approved the consultation document, subject to minor editing amendments and any changes arising from the Committee's discussion under paragraph 9.4.
- 9.7 The Committee recommended that the Council approve the consultation document for publication.

ACTION: Director of Policy and Standards to present the consultation document to the Council for discussion and approval at its meeting of 5 July 2012.

Item 10 Criteria for approving Approved Mental Health Professionals (ETC 30/12)

- 10.1 The Committee received a paper for discussion from the Executive regarding arrangements to manage the approval of Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) programmes. This responsibility will pass to the HCPC when the register of social workers in England transfers from the General Social Care Council (GSCC) on 1 August 2012.
- 10.2 The Committee had considered a paper on AMHPs at its meeting in June 2011, and had agreed that the register should not be annotated to show where individuals had completed an AMHP programme. However, the Committee had agreed that interim arrangements should be put in place to approve these programmes appropriately whilst the HPC developed its own criteria.
- 10.3 The paper set out proposals for interim arrangements for managing changes to, and approving, AMHP programmes, and a plan to develop the stand-alone criteria for use in approving those programmes.
- 10.4 The Committee noted that AMHPs implemented elements of the Mental Health Act 1983 (as amended by the Mental Health Act 2007). The Act only applied in England and Wales. This function was carried out in accordance with different legislation in Scotland and Northern Ireland (The Mental Health Act (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 and The Mental Health Act (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) 2003). AMHPs were not mentioned in those pieces of legislation.
- 10.5 The role of AMHPs would be considered in the development of a memorandum of understanding on the recognition of training programmes with the Care Council for Wales.
- 10.6 The Committee noted that although AMHP programmes would be approved and monitored by the HCPC, individual registrants would still be held to account by their own professional regulator. For example nurses with an AMHP qualification would remain registered and accountable to the NMC.
- 10.7 The Committee noted that the HPC had a statutory obligation under the Health Professions Order to consult before establishing any standards or guidance. The Committee noted that this obligation did not apply to the criteria to approve AMHP programmes, however as a matter of good practice, the HPC would consult on the stand alone criteria.
- 10.8 The Committee agreed that interim arrangements should be adopted to manage AMHP programmes, and to develop criteria for use in approving these programmes.

10.9 The Committee agreed that; to be approved, AMHP programmes should meet the standards of education and training (SETs), with the following caveats:

- (a) SET 1, 2.3, 2.4 and 3.16 do not apply to AMHP programmes;
- (b) paragraphs 57 and 59 of the GSCC's specialist standards and requirements for post qualifying social work education and training (social work in mental health services) should be used in place of the standards of proficiency so that AMHP programmes can meet SET 4.1;
- (c) section two and section three of the GSCC's specialist standards and requirements for post qualifying social work education and training (social work in mental health services) should be used in place of the curriculum guidance so that AMHP programmes can meet SET 4.2;
- (d) in meeting SET 4.5, the education provider should also ensure that mental health and learning disabilities nurses understand the implications of the NMC's Code; and
- (e) paragraphs 57 and 59 of the GSCC's specialist standards and requirements for post qualifying social work education and training (social work in mental health services) should be used in place of the standards of proficiency so that AMHP programmes can meet SET 6.1.

ACTION: The Executive to communicate the interim arrangements to AMHP programme providers and other relevant stakeholders as soon as possible.

Item 11 Approved Mental Health Professionals – approval and monitoring process (ETC 31/12)

11.1 The Committee received a paper for discussion from the Executive regarding proposals by which AMHP programmes transitionally approved by the HCPC should be dealt with from 1 August 2012.

11.2 In addition to the long term approach to confirming open ended approval for AMHP programmes, the paper included proposals for a mechanism for considering outstanding quality assurance issues in AMHP programmes midway through a GSCC quality assurance process at the point of transfer.

11.3 The Committee agreed:

- (a) to approve the mechanism for managing those programmes midway through a GSCC quality assurance process at the point of transfer as outlined in paper ETC 31/12; and
- (b) to approve the long term approach to approval and monitoring AMHP programmes as outlined in paper ETC 31/12; and

ACTION: Director of Education to finalise and implement the schedule for the transition and ongoing approval of AMHP programmes.

Item 12 Transfer of regulatory functions from the GSCC to HPC (ETC 32/12)

- 12.1 The Committee received a verbal update from the Council Chair regarding the project to transfer regulatory function from the GSCC to the HPC.
- 12.2 At the Council meeting on 14 October 2010, the Council agreed that there would be a standing item on every Council and Committee agenda, whereby the Executive would update the meeting on the progress of the project. As the project was developing rapidly, a verbal report on progress would be made to each meeting.

Social Work Reform Board

- 12.3 Responsibility for administering the funding system for social work education programmes in England had been given to the NHS Business Services Authority. The Authority had announced that the current arrangements for funding for the academic year 2011-12 would remain in place for 2012-13. A consultation on arrangements for funding in future years would be held in due course.
- 12.4 The agenda of the Reform Board was far reaching, and included:
- changes to the social work curriculum;
 - changes to the entry requirements for the profession;
 - new arrangements for practice learning; and
 - new standards for practice educators.
- 12.5 In the light of this agenda, the HPC Council had discussed the HPC's responsibilities in the context of student registration at its meeting on 10 May. Papers for this meeting, and a record of the Council's discussion, were available on the HPC's website.

The Committee noted the following items:

- Item 13 Annotation of the register – qualification in podiatric surgery (ETC 33/12)**
- Item 14 Social Workers in England – approved programme list (ETC 34/12)**
- Item 15 Approved Mental Health Practitioners – approved programme list (ETC 35/12)**
- Item 16 Modernising the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive (ETC 36/11)**
- Item 17 Education systems and process review major project (ETC 37/12)**

**Item 18 Panel decisions March to May 2012
(ETC 22/11)**

Item 19 Date and time of next meeting

19.1 10.30 am – Thursday 13 September 2012

Item 20 Any other business

20.1 There was no further business

Part 2 – Private agenda

The Committee was invited to adopt the following resolution:

‘The Committee hereby resolves that the remainder of the meeting shall be held in private, because the matters being discussed relate to;

- (5) any issue relating to legal proceedings which are being contemplated or instituted by or against the Committee or the Council;
- (7) the source of information given to the Committee in confidence;
- (8) any other matter which, in the opinion of the Chair, is confidential or the public disclosure of which would prejudice the effective discharge of the Committee's or Council's functions.’

Summary of those matters considered whilst the public were excluded

Item 21 Minutes of the private part of the meeting of 8 March 2012

21.1 The minutes were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Item 22 Education provider complaint (ETC 39/12)

22.1 The Committee received a paper for consideration from the Executive regarding a complaint received against an education provider. The Committee discussed the complaint, and made recommendations to the Executive.

Item 23 Any other business

23.1 There was no further private business.

Chair

Date