

Education and Training Committee, 14 November 2013

Guidance for disabled people wanting to become health and care professionals – update

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

At its meeting on 7 March 2013, the Committee agreed plans for reviewing and revising guidance for disabled people interested in training to become a health professional registered with us – ‘A disabled person’s guide to becoming a health professional’ (published in 2006).

This included commissioning research, which is currently being undertaken by a research team at Coventry University. This research includes focus groups / interviews with disabled students, as well as educators, admissions staff and staff in university disability services, in order to inform changes to the guidance.

At the time of writing this paper, the research team has undertaken a total of 79 interviews with disabled students and other relevant stakeholders across a wide range of HCPC regulated professions. The research is approaching its final stages and a first draft of a report outlining their research findings and recommendations for the revision of the guidance is expected on 8 November 2013.

The Committee noted a progress update and timetable for the overall project at its meeting on 6 June 2013. This timetable was subject to agreement of the feasibility of the proposed timetable for the research. Since this meeting the Executive has agreed a final date for the research and adjusted the overall timetable accordingly. This has not affected the overall proposed completion date for publication of the revised guidance.

The updated timetable for the completion of this work is attached.

Decision

This paper is to note; no decision is required.

Background information

- Education and Training Committee, 6 June 2013. Progress update

<http://www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10004036enc16-guidancefordisabledpeoplewantingtobecomehealthandcareprofessionals-progressupdate.pdf>

- Education and Training Committee, 7 March 2013. Guidance for disabled people wanting to become health and care professionals
<http://www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10003F11Enc08-guidancefordisabledpeoplewantingtobecomehealthandcareprofessionals.pdf>.

Resource implications

None as a result of this paper.

Financial implications

None as a result of this paper.

Appendices

None

Date of paper

30 October 2013

Updated overall timetable

Action	Timetable
Invitation for research proposals (9 weeks to deadline)	From 7 March 2013
Further preparatory work including desk research	Completion June 2013
Deadline for research proposals	10 May 2013
Research team appointed	By 21 June 2013
Deadline for final research report	13 December 2013
Finalise revisions to guidance	January 2014 to June 2014
Final research report for discussion	March 2014 (Education and Training Committee)
Discussion / approval of guidance for public consultation	June 2014 (Education and Training Committee) and July 2014 (Council)
Public consultation (12 weeks)	July to September 2014
Consultation analysis and revised guidance for approval	November 2014 (Education and Training Committee) and December 2014 (Council); or March 2015 (Education and Training Committee and Council) dependent on volume of responses
Publication of revised guidance	January 2015 or April / May 2015