

Health Professions Council

Visitors report

Name of education provider	University of Wolverhampton		
Name and titles of programme(s)	Supplementary Prescribing for Allied Health Professionals		
Date of event	13.12.05		
Proposed date of approval to commence	February 2006		
Name of HPC visitors attending (including member type and professional area)	Dr. Jean Mooney, CH 7848; Podiatrist Mr. Marcus Bailey Paramedic		
HPC Executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Ms Joanna Kemp Mr Edward Crowe		
Joint panel members in attendance (name and delegation):	Alan Weale	Chair, Associate Dean, Quality and Standards	School of Health University of Wolverhampton
	Julie Hyde	NMC Visitor	Nursing and Midwifery Council
	Hilary Lumsden	Senior Lecturer, Midwifery	School of Health University of Wolverhampton
	Megan Tanner	Acting Subject Leader, Post-Qualifying Studies	School of Health University of Wolverhampton
	Pamela Worton	Walsall Campus Registrar	Registry, University of Wolverhampton
	Stella Walsh	Quality and Academic Standards Officer	University of Wolverhampton

Scope of visit (please tick)

New programme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major change to existing programme	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visit initiated through Annual Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.1 Confirmation of meetings held

	yes	no	n/a
Senior personnel of provider with responsibility for resources for the programme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programme planning team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Placements providers and educators	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.2 Confirmation of facilities inspected

	yes	no
Library learning centre	✓	
IT facilities	✓	
Specialist teaching accommodation	✓	

1.3 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
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓*

** This is a new programme that has not been previously approved by HPC*

Proposed AHP student cohort intake number please state	Unknown, but likely = < 10
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ALL CONDITIONS MET - PROGRAMME APPROVED

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

CONDITIONS

SET 2 Programme admissions

2.2 The admission procedures must apply selection and entry criteria, including:

Condition 1: SET 2.2.2 criminal convictions checks

The HEI must ensure that current criminal conviction checks must have been made for all students, prior to their entry to the programme,

Reason: This SET was not visited within the Course Document or the student Application Form

Condition 2: SET 2.2.3 compliance with any health requirements

The HEI must ensure that all students comply with health requirements to practice, prior to their entry to the programme

Reason: This SET was neither covered nor explicitly asked for within the course documentation or student application form

Condition 3: SET 2.2.5 accreditation of Prior Learning and other inclusion mechanisms

The HEI must evidence the APL process in order to confirm student ability to access the course via this route

Reason: The course team explained the APL process verbally, but it was not referenced within course documentation

SET 3. Programme management and resource standards

Condition 4: SET 3.1 The programme must have a secure place in the education provider's business plan.

Reason: No business plan was submitted within the documentation to support this SET, with specific omission of the school plan and the Birmingham and Black Country SHA for Non-Medical Prescribing document.

Condition 5: SET 3.6 A programme for staff development must be in place to ensure continuing professional and research development.

The HEI must ensure that a programme for staff development forms part of its Business Plan

Reason: As in Condition 4 (above) no business plan was submitted with documentation to support this SET, with specific omission of the school plan and the Birmingham and Black Country SHA for Non-Medical Prescribing document.

Condition 6: SET 3.9 Where students participate as patients or clients in practical and clinical teaching, appropriate protocols must be used to obtain their consent.

The HEI must ensure that written consent is gained from students in order to allow them to participate in practical scenarios within the programme

Reason: Students are likely to undertake role-play as part of the teaching and learning programme

Condition 7: SET 3.11 Throughout the course of the programme, the education provider must have identified where attendance is mandatory and must have associated monitoring mechanisms in place.

The HEI must ensure that the course and student documentation articulates the requirements of programme attendance, and describes exactly how any hours lost due to absence are to be made up

Reason: The programme requires that students attend for all elements of the course. Students must be made aware of the express need to undertake the required work in order to make up for any time lost due to absence from the taught and practical elements of the programme

SET 5. Practice placements standards

Condition 8: SET 5.2 There must be an adequate number of appropriately qualified and experienced staff at the placement.

Conditions 9 and 10: SET 5.3 (5.3.1 and 5.3.2) The practice placement settings must provide a safe environment and allow safe and effective practice

Condition 11: SET 5.4 Learning, teaching and supervision must be designed to encourage safe and effective practice, independent learning and professional conduct.

Condition 12: SET 5.13 The placement providers must have an equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory policy in relation to candidates and students, together with an indication of how this will be implemented and monitored.

The HEI should describe fully how Medical Mentor's are recruited, and prepared for, the student placement. The HEI should delineate how the Medical Mentor's are supported and monitored during the student placement. The HEI should describe its protocols to replace a medical mentor, and also how it will identify the need to replace a medical mentor, focussing especially on the chance of this needing to occur during the placement period of an individual student

The HEI should describe fully how Medical Mentors are trained and supported in the objective assessment of students

The HEI should describe its protocols to ensure consistency of the students' placement experiences, and placement assessment consistency and objectivity throughout the placement-based learning element of the programme

Reason: The course documentation did not present any evidence of the quality assurance mechanisms that confirm the recruitment / replacement, preparation, support, and monitoring of medical mentors. It also did not describe how the consistency of the placement experience is achieved across the student cohort. It did not delineate the objectivity of the assessment of the practice-based element of the programme nor link the clinical assessment to externally referenced frameworks.

Condition 13: SET 5.6 The education provider must maintain a thorough and effective system for approving and monitoring all placements.

The HEI must identify and document its protocols and processes to approve and audit placements

Reason: No reference was made to the HEI's protocols and processes to approve and audit student placements within the course documentation or discussions with the course team

Condition 14: SET 5.7 Students and practice placement educators must be fully prepared for placement which will include information about and understanding of the following:

SET 5.7.1 the learning outcomes to be achieved;

The HEI must ensure that it has appropriate protocols in place so that placement mentors are fully conversant with the learning outcomes of the programme

Reason: The Medical Mentors who attended the Approvals Event volunteered that they had a number of concerns around the consistency of teaching and learning strategies employed throughout the group of Medical Mentors who provided the practice-based teaching to the current (Supplementary Prescribing for Nurses) programme, particularly in terms of the learning outcomes that the student was expected to achieve, and the level of student achievement that was to be demonstrated during the assessment of this element of the programme

Condition 15: SET 5.7.4 the assessment procedures including the implications of, and any action to be taken in the case of failure

The HEI must document the failure and re-submission policy within the course documentation

Reason: The HEI's policy on failure and resubmission was explained verbally but was omitted from the course documentation

Condition 16: SET 5.7.5 communication and lines of responsibility.

The HEI must ensure the Medical Mentors are fully aware of lines of communication and their responsibility within the programme

Reason: There appeared to be confusion over this issue during the Visitors' discussion with the Medical Mentors, and issues around communication and lines of responsibility were not stated clearly within the documentation

Condition 17: SET 5.10 The education provider must ensure that necessary information is supplied to practice placement providers.

The HEI must ensure that all the Medical Mentors and placement providers are provided with all necessary information about the delivery and assessment of the clinical practice element of the programme

Reason: Discussion with the Medical Mentors demonstrated that they were unsure of their exact roles and responsibilities to the delivery and assessment of the programme

SET 6. Assessment standards

Condition 18: SET 6.1 The assessment design and procedures must assure that the student can demonstrate fitness to practise.

The HEI must evolve a process to validate the OSCE clinical assessment, to ensure quality, consistency and objectivity

Reason: The Course Team and the presented documentation were unable to give any evidence of the HEI's quality assurance mechanisms as applied to the placement-assessed OSCE

Condition 19: SET 6.4 The measurement of student performance and progression must be an integral part of the wider process of monitoring and evaluation, and use objective criteria.

The HEI must give explicit evidence of the objective criteria within their protocols and processes that are used to monitor and evaluate student performance and progression

Reason: There was insufficient evidence of this provided in the discussion or documentation

Condition 20: SET 6.5 There must be effective mechanisms in place to assure appropriate standards in the assessment.

The HEI must give explicit evidence of the objective criteria within their protocols and processes that are used to monitor and evaluate student performance and progression

Reason: As in Condition 6.1 and 6.4 (above)

Condition 21: SET 6.7.5 for the appointment of at least one external examiner from the relevant part of the Register.

The HEI must appoint an external examiner to the programme from one of the contributing Allied Health Professions (Physiotherapy, Radiography, Podiatry / Chiropody)

Reason: The HEI had not made this appointment at the time of the Approvals event

Deadline for Conditions to be met: 24.02.06

To be submitted to Approvals Committee on: 2 March 2006

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:

Dr Jean Mooney:



Marcus Bailey:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bailey', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Date: 15.12.05

ALL CONDITIONS MET - PROGRAMME APPROVED

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: SET 5.8.3 undertake appropriate practice placement educator training.

The HEI is recommended to ensure that appropriate placement educator training is conducted prior to the students entering the placement.

Reason: The HEI is advised to have robust mechanisms in place to ensure clarity within the course programme, and their expectations/responsibilities of the placement educator / medical mentor.

Recommendation 2: SET 5.9 There must be collaboration between the education provider and practice placement providers.

The HEI is strongly advised to develop a stronger network between it, placement educators and Prescribing Leads within contributing Trusts

Reason: The discussions with the Course Team indicated that although communication does take place network between it, placement educators and Prescribing Leads within contributing Trusts, communication networks should be developed, extended and strengthened in order to meet the needs of the students, patients, and the wider health care sector

Commendations

The Visitors are pleased to commend the Course Team in the following area:

- Commendation 1: The excellence of the range of learning resources that they were shown during their visit to University of Wolverhampton
- Commendation 2: The quality of the student facilities that they were shown during their visit to University of Wolverhampton

ALL CONDITIONS MET PROGRAMME APPROVED