

**Health Professions Council
Approvals Committee
5 September 2006**

HPC Approval of IHCD Paramedic Programmes

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

Annual monitoring of IHCD training centres 2006

This year was the first year of the HPC annual monitoring process. The process takes place annually, however involves two different processes. In year one of the cycle, education providers need to complete a declaration form and in year two education providers are required to submit the last two years external examiners reports, internal quality documents and audit form.

This year, all IHCD paramedic training centres were in year two of the cycle and required to complete the audit process.

As a result of the annual monitoring assessment days, Visitors have recommended that the programmes listed below continue to meet the Standards of Education and Training and that upon successful completion, students continue to meet the Standards of Proficiency.

Avon Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Royal Berkshire Ambulance NHS Trust
Two Shires Ambulance NHS Trust
Dorset Ambulance Service
East Anglia Ambulance NHS Trust
Essex Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Gloucestershire Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Greater Manchester Training Centre
Hampshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Trust
Kent Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Lancashire Ambulance Service
Lincolnshire Ambulance & Health Transport Service
Merseyside Regional Ambulance Training & Education Centre
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust
North East Ambulance NHS Trust
Northern Ireland Ambulance Regional Training Centre
Southern Ambulance College
Scottish Ambulance College
Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Surrey Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Sussex Ambulance Service
South Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Tees, East & North Yorks Ambulance Trust
West Country Ambulance Service College
West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust

In contrast, the Visitors recommended that the following programmes have undergone a major change and that an Approvals visit is required to assess whether the programmes continue to meet the Standards of Education and Training and that upon successful completion, students continue to meet the Standards of Proficiency.

Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Ambulance NHS
Service
Oxfordshire Ambulance NHS Trust
Wales, National Ambulance Training College

The following programmes are awaiting a recommendation.

East Midlands Ambulance Service
Hereford & Worcester Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Audit forms & Visitors' Reports may be seen upon request.

What became apparent from the Visitors reading of the annual monitoring documentation submitted, was the variation between training centres. There is an overriding structure that governs the training centres, including the overriding curriculum, assessment and quality assurance process. However, there appears to be variations in management and delivery of the programmes for a number of reasons including:

- Sizes and location of the centre.
- The internal management structure and staffing of the centre.
- The number of students being trained.
- whether the centre had a working relationship with a nearby HEI.

Due to the uniqueness of each centre, it would be sensible to visit each individual centre, ahead of considering the stand alone IHCD award.

Approval Visits of IHCD Training Centres

In February 2004, Education and Training Committee agreed that HPC should visit all IHCD paramedic training centres once the QAA benchmark statement had been published. These visits were delayed due to the heavy workload of the department and because the paramedic centres across England and Wales were due to be re-structured.

On 1st July 2006, the existing training centres were merged into 16 new training centres. The implications of the merger are still not fully understood but they will definitely result in a major change to the programme.

Forward Plan

Now that the QAA benchmark statements have been published and the paramedic centres have been restructured, HPC is in a position to visit all IHCD training centres and the IHCD itself.

In consideration of the department work flow and the need to give education providers six months notice of an upcoming approvals visit, it is suggested that approval visits are spread across an 18 month period commencing next summer as detailed in table 1.

Table 1

Period	Centres to be visited
Sept – Nov 2006	Contact CEOs of the new centres and explain the plane for visits. Establish how many of the centres will be delivering IHCD training in the future.
April – June 2007	East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust
July – Sept 2007	Wales, National Ambulance Training College North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust Isle of Wight Healthcare Primary Care Trust
Sept 2007	Review visits to date.
Oct – Dec 2007	East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust Scottish Ambulance College
Jan – March 2008	Northern Ireland Ambulance Regional Training Centre London Ambulance Service NHS Trust South Eastern Ambulance Service NHS Trust Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust South West Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Decision

The Committee is asked to agree the following:
HPC should hold a approvals visits at each of the IHCD training centres over an 18 month period starting spring 2007.

Background information

None

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

None

Background papers

None

Appendices

List of new ambulances trust.

Date of paper

23rd August 2006

New Ambulance Trusts

New Ambulance Trusts	Old Ambulance Trusts
North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust	North East Parts of Tees, East & North Yorkshire
North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	Cumbria Lancashire Mersey Region Greater Manchester
Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	Parts of Tees, East & North Yorkshire West Yorkshire South Yorkshire
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	East Midlands Lincolnshire Half of Two Shires
West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	West Midlands Hertford & Worcester
Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	Coventry & Warwickshire Staffordshire
East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust	East Anglian Essex Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	Unchanged
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust	Kent Surry Sussex
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust	Hampshire Royal Berkshire Oxfordshire Half of Tow Shires
Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust	Unchanged (established on 1 st April 2006)
South West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	Dorset West Country
Isle of Wight Ambulance Service NHS Trust	Unchanged
Scottish Ambulance Service NHS Trust	Unchanged
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service NHS Trust	Unchanged
Welsh West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	Unchanged