

Education and Training Committee

Minutes of the 61st meeting of the Education and Training Committee held as follows:

Date: Thursday 11 September 2014

Time: 10:30 am

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

Members: Joy Tweed (Chair)
Elaine Brookes
Mary Clark-Glass
John Donaghy
Sheila Drayton

In attendance:

Claire Amor, Secretary to Committee
Nicole Casey, Policy Manager
Liz Craig, PA to the Director of Education
Abigail Gorringe, Director of Education
Michael Guthrie, Director of Policy and Standards
Grant Imlach, Media and PR Manager
Edward Tynan, Policy Officer
Anna van der Gaag, Chair of Council

Public Agenda

Item 1 - Chair's welcome and introduction

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed the Committee and employees in attendance to the meeting. The Chair also welcomed observer Kim Ryan from the College of Podiatry.

Item 2 - Apologies for absence

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Graham Towl.

Item 3 - Approval of agenda

- 3.1 The Committee approved the agenda.

Item 4 - Declaration of members' interests

- 4.1 Members had no interests to declare in connection with the items on the agenda.

Item 5 - Minutes of the meeting of 5 June 2014 (ETC 22/14)

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

Item 6 - Review of the standards of education and training (ETC 23/14)

- 6.1 The Committee received a paper for discussion/approval from the Executive.

- 6.2 During discussions the following points were highlighted;

- the standards of education and training (SETs) were last updated in 2009, and are now due to be reviewed again;
- it is anticipated that the review will be conducted on a staged basis over approximately three years;
- the review will comprise of research, stakeholder engagement activities, a PLG and a public consultation;
- research on the nature and extent of interprofessional education within approved education and training programmes, which will be used to inform the review; and
- an additional piece of external research is proposed on preparation for practice among newly qualified professionals.

- 6.3 The Committee discussed four country stakeholder engagement on the review. It was noted that this was planned. It was suggested that the Council

of Deans spanned all four countries and could be used in this aspect of engagement.

- 6.4 The Committee discussed the HCPC's standards. It was noted that these standards are intertwined and a review of the SETs would require consideration of the other standards, such as the standards of conduct, performance and ethics, which is currently being reviewed and the standards of proficiency.
- 6.5 The Committee suggested that a review should look at the language used by education providers in developing programmes to ensure that the standards can be easily mapped.
- 6.6 The Committee discussed the composition of the proposed PLG. It was noted that it would not be possible to have all HCPC professions represented due to the size of the PLG. The Committee noted that extensive communications and stakeholder engagement would allow all professions to feed into the review.
- 6.7 The Committee requested that more information on the breadth of communications activities planned for the review be provided.

ACTION – Policy Manager to update the Committee at its meeting on 20 November 2014.

- 6.8 The Committee agreed that pre-warning education providers of the timescales of the review and the new SETs coming into effect was essential to allow them the opportunity to sync their own reviews with the new standards.
- 6.9 The Committee approved the paper.

Item 7 - Research on preparation for practice (ETC 24/14)

- 7.1 The Committee received a paper for discussion/approval from the Executive
- 7.2 The Committee noted that the Executive has identified preparation for practice as a topic for external research to inform the SETs review.
- 7.3 The research will aim to assess the effectiveness of the HCPC standards of education and training in ensuring newly qualified professionals are fit to practise. Resulting recommendations will be used to strengthen the SETs and supporting guidance;
- 7.4 The Committee agreed that the wording of paragraph 5.1 of the research invitation should be amended to allow the researcher scope to comment on the entirety of their findings.
- 7.5 The Committee discussed service user and carer involvement in the research. It was agreed that this input should be sought by the research, and that the service users and carers used by education providers in making their own

assessments could be approached.

ACTION – Executive to amend the research invitation document to include service users and carers as stakeholders.

7.6 The Committee approved the Preparation for practice research invitation document, subject to the amendments outlined in its discussion.

Item 8 - Threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register for paramedics (ETC 25/14)

8.1 The Committee received a paper for discussion/approval from the Executive

8.2 The Committee noted that at its meeting on 5 June 2014, it agreed that it should proceed to consider whether the level of qualification set out for paramedics should be increased.

8.3 The Committee agreed, in principle, that, as things currently stood, there was a persuasive case for changing the level specified in SET 1 for paramedics, particularly having regard to the profile of approved paramedic programmes, 85% of which were delivered above SET 1.

8.4 The Committee considered that the level that it should in due course consider consulting on for this profession was a complex issue and as a result considered that it was not necessary or helpful at this stage to make any firm or in principle decisions.

8.5 The Committee discussed and was positive about the reported direction of travel towards degree level at entry for this profession, but was mindful of the current variation in delivery across the UK countries, particularly in Northern Ireland where the only existing approved programme was delivered at the current threshold and by an education provider outside of higher education.

8.6 The Committee discussed a range of matters that could influence the pace of change towards degree level in this profession including commissioning arrangements, the operational needs of employers and the impact upon the existing workforce. However, it was mindful that although important to bear in mind, some of these issues were not directly pertinent to the decision the Committee and Council would need to make in due course about the threshold level for public protection which should be specified in SET 1.

8.7 The Committee noted paragraph 6.8 of the paper, which set out that one possible option that the Committee could consider was a staged approach in which SET 1 for this profession might be increased over time, subject to public consultations on each change.

8.6 The Committee agreed the Executive's proposal that it should consider this issue further in the future, once further discussions had taken place with

stakeholders in the four countries and following completion of Health Education England's on-going work on this topic.

ACTION - Director of Policy and Standards to bring back further updates to the Committee.

Item 9 - Consultation on revised guidance for disabled people wanting to become health and care professionals (ETC 26/14)

- 9.1 The Committee received a paper for discussion/approval from the Executive
- 9.2 The Committee noted that the Executive has re-written the existing guidance taking into account the outcomes and recommendations of the research carried out by Coventry University.
- 9.3 The Committee noted that it is proposed that the public consultation will run for approximately 16 weeks, from late September / early October 2014 through to mid-January 2015.
- 9.4 The Committee agreed that the flowchart in the consultation document should be amended to include the requirement that if circumstances change the HCPC should be kept informed. It was also agreed that more emphasis should be placed on informing the education provider at the application stage so that appropriate adjustments can be made.
- 9.5 The Council suggested that professions should be added to the case studies where this was appropriate. In addition where two case studies related to the same situation but from different perspectives, this should be noted.

ACTION – Executive to review and amend the consultation document as outlined in paragraphs 9.4 and 9.5

- 9.6 The Committee agreed to recommend the consultation document and draft guidance to Council.

Item 10 - Consultation on standards for podiatric surgery (ETC 27/14)

- 10.1 The Committee received a paper for discussion/approval from the Executive.
- 10.2 The Committee noted that at its meeting in June 2014, it agreed to proceed with public consultation on a set of proposed standards for podiatric surgery. It is proposed that the consultation will run from 1 October 2014 to 16 January 2015.
- 10.3 The Committee agreed that the document should be amended to clarify that no response was received from Wales during stakeholder engagement to inform the standards.

- 10.4 The Committee agreed to recommend the draft standards for podiatric surgery and the text of the consultation paper to Council.

Item 11 - Consultation on Rules for professional indemnity (ETC 28/14)

- 11.1 The Committee received a paper for discussion/approval from the Executive.
- 11.2 The Committee noted that in order to implement the requirement for professional indemnity insurance fully, the Health and Care Professions Council (Registration and Fees) Rules 2003 require amendment, a process which is subject to public consultation.
- 11.3 The Committee agreed to recommend the text of the draft consultation document and Rules to Council.

Item 12 - Outcomes of the consultation on proposed profession-specific standards of proficiency for biomedical scientists (ETC 29/14)

- 12.1 The Committee received a paper for discussion/approval from the Executive.
- 12.2 The Committee noted that, following a review of the standards by the professional body for biomedical scientists, the HCPC publicly consulted on the draft standards of proficiency for biomedical scientists between 31 March and 20 June 2014.
- 12.3 The Committee agreed to recommend the revised standards of proficiency for biomedical scientists and the text of the consultation analysis document to Council.

Item 13 - Outcomes of the consultation on proposed profession-specific standards of proficiency for clinical scientists (ETC 30/14)

- 13.1 The Committee received a paper for discussion/approval from the Executive.
- 13.2 The Committee noted that, following a review of the standards by the professional body for clinical scientists, the HCPC publicly consulted on the draft standards of proficiency for clinical scientists between 31 March and 20 June 2014.
- 13.3 The Committee agreed to recommend the revised standards of proficiency for clinical scientists and the text of the consultation analysis document to Council.

Item 14 – Any other business

- 14.1 The Chair informed the Committee that the current agenda for the Committee's meeting in November 2014, was shorter than usual. The Chair

suggested that members suggest any items they wished to receive.

Item 15 – Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 20 November 2014, 10.30am

Chair

Date

Unconfirmed