Health Professions Council

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	University of Worcester
Name and titles of programme(s)	Non medical independent and supplementary prescribing
Mode of Delivery (FT/PT)	PT
Date of Visit	5th June 2007
Proposed date of approval to commence	1st September 2007
Name of HPC visitors attending (including member type and professional area)	Jim Pickard, Podiatrist Simon Walker, Radiographer
HPC Executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Katherine Lock
Joint panel members in attendance (name and delegation):	Jan Quallington, Quality Assurance Officer acting as Chair Jo Rouse, Senior Lecturer, Child Health Roy Pierce-Jones, Worcester University, Department of Drama and Performance Studies. Sharon Hardwick, Course Co-ordinator Pre-Hospital Care Debbie Holmes - Secretary

Scope of visit *(please tick)*

New programme	☒
Major change to existing programme	☐
Visit initiated through Annual Monitoring	☐

Confirmation of meetings held

	Yes	No	N/A
Senior personnel of provider with responsibility for resources for the programme	☒	☐	☐
Programme team	☒	☐	☐
Placements providers and educators	☒	☐	☐
Students (current or past as appropriate)	☒	☐	☐

Confirmation of facilities inspected

	Yes	No	N/A
Library learning centre	☒	☐	☐
IT facilities	☒	☐	☐

Specialist teaching accommodation	☒	☐	☐

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
1	☐	☐	☒
2	☐	☐	☒
3	☐	☐	☒

Proposed student cohort intake number please state	**30**

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

CONDITIONS

SET 2 *Programme admissions*

The admission procedures must:
2.1 give both the applicant and the education provider the information they require to make an informed choice about whether to make, or take up the offer of a place on a programme

Condition: The programme team must redraft and resubmit documentation to provide clear information regarding the delivery of the programme and accurate outcomes of the programme.

Reason: A number of errors within the documentation were identified which should be corrected in order to provide accurate information to potential students. The number of learning hours needs to be clarified. The programme specification needs to articulate more clearly that the pre-requisite module at level 7 is optional and the reference to 'most' students completing the learning outcomes needs to be changed to 'all'.

SET 4. *Curriculum Standards*

4.2 The programme must reflect the philosophy, values, skills and knowledge base as articulated in the curriculum guidance for the profession.

SET 6. *Assessment standards*

6.2 Assessment methods must be employed that measure the learning outcomes and skills that are required to practise safely and effectively.

Condition: The learning outcomes must be re drafted to ensure that reference is made to the demonstration of safe and effective practice. Learning outcomes are to be reduced at each level of provision and mapped to elements of assessment and relevant external curriculum documents.

 Reason: The learning outcomes did not articulate that on successful completion of the programme the student was safe and effective to practice. The documentation stated that the learning outcomes had been mapped to the HPC learning outcomes (of which there are none) rather than to the curriculum guidance for allied health professionals published by the DOH in 2004. The current learning outcomes are not all mapped to the assessment tasks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SET 3. Programme management and resource standards

3.7 The resources to support student learning in all settings must be used effectively.

3.8 The facilities needed to ensure the welfare and well-being of students must be both adequate and accessible.

3.13 The learning resources, including the stock of periodicals and subject books, and IT facilities, including internet access, must be appropriate to the curriculum and must be readily available to students and staff.

Recommendation: Whilst WebCT remains the primary electronic interface, the programme team should offer students alternative methods of accessing electronic resources

Reason: Both staff and in particular students expressed difficulties in accessing core material found within the WebCT environment. The visitors were advised that a new system was to be introduced in the future. As an interim measure it would be helpful to students if alternative approaches were to be adopted to ensure that students can gain easy access to resources off site.

Commendations

- We would like to commend the programme team on the open door policy to student support

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:

      Jim Pickard

      Simon Walker

Date: 7th June 2007