

**Education and Training Committee
(16 February 2005)**

Department of Education & Policy

Director's Report

1. Approvals Visits

1.1 Approvals Visits Undertaken

The following Approvals visits have been undertaken since the last meeting of the Committee on 24 November:

Name of Education Provider	Title of Programme(s)	Date of Visit
Manchester Metropolitan University	BSc(Hons) Physiotherapy	2/3 Dec 2004
Anglia Polytechnic University	Local Analgesia Certificate (Podiatry)	3 Dec 2004
University of Teesside <i>(observation only of Partnership Framework prototype)</i>	BSc(Hons) Allied Health Professions (pre-registration): Diagnostic Radiography, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy)	7 Dec 2004
Queen Margaret University College, Edinburgh	BSc(Hons) Occupational Therapy	31 Jan/1 Feb 2005

1.2 Forward Calendar of Approvals Visits

This is reported as a separate agenda item.

1.3 Letter to Education Providers

The letter to education providers informing them of the new Approvals and Annual Monitoring processes is currently being distributed. As well as detailed information about the new process the letter will contain a leaflet explaining about the HPC, a published copy of the Standards of Education & Training, the Approvals process flowchart, a Points of Information sheet about the Approvals process, and a sheet requesting information on the education provider and their programmes for data cleansing purposes together with a request for information about the education provider's timetable for annual monitoring reports and quinquennial subject review. A copy of this letter is appended to the paper.

1.4 Education Provider Roadshows

A number of roadshows will be held throughout the UK to inform education providers of the new Approvals process and give them an opportunity to ask questions. Invitations for these will be sent out shortly.

1.5 Paperwork for Approvals

The final draft of the Approvals Handbook and Visitors Guidance have been forwarded to the Director by Helen Best. These will be edited and sent to be the Approvals Committee for approval, hopefully to be published by the end of February and distributed thereafter.

1.6 New Education Providers

Approvals visits have now been set up for all new education providers as listed below. These should be complete by the end of April.

- Tobias School of Art & Therapy
- The Hibernia College Centre for Science and Art
- Institute for Arts in Therapy and Education (IATE)

2. Annual Monitoring

The Director will be contacting Helen Best with a view to drafting the AMR proforma together with the guidance documents for Visitor Evaluators and education providers.

3. Visitors

This is the subject of a separate report.

4. Aspirant Groups

The Department of Health has indicated January 2006 as a possible date for the opening of the Register for Applied Psychologists. Whilst this is not a firm date an operational timetable will now be drafted against the possibility.

5. Clinical Science Programme Approval

The Director is in the process of arranging a meeting with the Association of Clinical Scientists (ACS, the professional body) and one of the Clinical Science Council members to discuss the Approval of the ACS in awarding Certificates of Competence, including whether modality-specific Partner Visitors will be required for this area.

6. Biomedical Science Programme Approval

This is the subject of a separate report.

7. Paramedic Programme Approval

The Director and the alternate Paramedic Council member met with the Chief Executive and the Director of Education for the Scottish Ambulance Service to discuss location-specific issues and educational development. This was a very beneficial meeting in clarifying current issues for the ambulance service in Scotland.

Whilst not favouring Foundation degree entry-level for paramedics at this stage the Chief Executive did support a UK-wide approach to the development of education and training for paramedics and agreed that strong professional body representation was crucial in this role. Work has been ongoing to develop a Scottish Paramedic Association but indications are that if this was successful then formal links would be set up with the British Paramedics Association (BPA). In the meantime their Director of Education undertook to encourage a Scottish member of the BPA to act as a representative on the BPA board.

The Chief Executive informed the Director and Council member that there was a regular meeting of Chief Executives from the four home countries (with one CEO representing all ambulance services in England) and their appropriate contacts in the civil service to allow updates on various issues happening across the UK. He agreed to raise the matter of UK-wide education at this forum as a prelude to discussions on future developments in this area, including professional body involvement, and to keep the Director of Education & Policy for the HPC informed of any outcomes.

Similar meetings are being arranged with the Chief Executive of the Ambulance Services in Wales and Northern Ireland.

8. Stakeholder Management

Since the last meeting of the Committee the Director has undertaken the following with regard to stakeholder management:

- *Partnership Framework:* attended a Partnership Framework Operational Group meeting.
- *Professional Bodies:* met with the Director of Education for the Society of Radiographers; the Director of Education for the Institute of Biomedical Science; met with the Director of Education for Unison; attended a meeting of the Allied Health Professions Federation Education Leads and have been invited to attend all future meetings.
- *Other Regulators:* attended a meeting of the Directors of Education for all other health regulators to discuss ‘developing the education agenda for healthcare professionals’ – this body will meet bi-annually; attended a meeting of the GMC, NMC and HPC with the education arm of the Department of Health – this will become a regular meeting to discuss pre-registration issues in medicine, nursing and professions allied to health.
- *Department of Health:* met with representatives of the Knowledge & Skills Framework Development Group; Ros Mead, New Regulations Project Manager; Colin Day, Head of the Education Team; Sue Hill, Chief Scientific Officer and John Cowles, Portfolio Manager, Post Registration Personal & Professional Development;
- *Skills for Health:* met with Jane Fox., representative of Skills for Health Quality Assurance in Education Team; attended DH/Skills for Health Statutory Body Alliance meeting.
- *Education Providers:* attended approvals events at the following institutions: Anglia Polytechnic University, University of Teesside, Queen

Margaret University College, Edinburgh. Attended meetings at Kingston University and the University of Brighton.

- *Other:* met with the Associate Director, Learning Innovation at Foundation Degree Forward (fdf) – a HEFCE-funded project; attended launch of QAA Recognition Scheme for further benchmark statements.

During the next month the Director will meet further stakeholders as follows:

- *Scottish Executive – Health Department:* meet with Head of Nursing Directorate and AHP Programme Manager.
- *NHS Education for Scotland:* meet with Deputy Chief Executive and Educational Projects Manager.
- *Educational Providers:* approvals events at Queen Margaret University College; University of Brighton (Crawley College); Central School of Speech and Drama; University of Derby.
- *Other:* meetings have been arranged with the London Ambulance Service and the MoD; the Director of Education for the Association of Operating Department Practitioners.

9. Resources

On 7 February Nadia Lupo will join the Education & Policy Team as a new Education Officer. In addition, on 21 February Sharon Woolf will start as the new Education Manager. Both will attend the next meeting of the Education & Training Committee as part of their induction programme.

An advert has been placed for another two Education Officers to complete the team for the coming months to handle the Approvals process. This will be reviewed over the next year with regard to capacity and volume of work.

Staffing for the Annual Monitoring process has yet to be decided.

10. Appendix

Copy of letter to education providers explaining the new Approvals and Monitoring processes.

Fiona Nixon
(5 February 2005)