

Education - Approvals and Monitoring Department – Abigail Creighton

Approvals Process

The following nine visits (covering 13 programmes) took place between 1 September 2006 and 30 November 2006.start

Date of Visit	Name of Education Provider	Title of Programme	Reason for Visit
6/7 Sept 06	University of Worcester	FD Pre-hospital and Unscheduled Emergency Care	New Programme
26/27 Sept 06	Manchester Metropolitan University	MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration)	New Programme
3/4 Oct 06	Canterbury Christ Church University	Pg Dip Speech and Language Therapy	New Programme
6 Oct 06	University of Ulster	BSc (Hons) Dietetics Pg Dip Dietetics MSc Dietetics	Major Change
12 Oct 06	Coventry University	Certificate in Non-medical Prescribing	New Programme
17 Oct 06	The Robert Gordon University	BSc (Hons) Dietetics	Major Change
8/9 Nov 06	University of Wales Institute Cardiff	BSc (Hons) Dietetics MSc Dietetics Pg Dip Dietetics	Major Change
20/22 Nov 06	University of Bedfordshire	Dip HE Operating Department Practise	New Profession
23 Nov 06	University of Hull	Supplementary Prescribing	New Programme

The schedule for 2006/07 academic year is now closed as it has reached capacity. There are 79 visits scheduled from Sept 2006 – June 2007, covering 109 programmes. There are approximately 4 additional visits, which need to be finalised dates for from programmes that require a visit following annual monitoring or a major change.

Appendix 1 shows the detail of these visits and Appendix 2 shows the breakdown by month and profession. These figures relate to the number

of visits and do not show the size or number of programmes assessed as part of a visit. The month of March 2007 is at capacity due to three multi-professional events and the month of April 2007 is at capacity due to the Easter break. Appendix 3 shows the long-term trends of visits.

All scheduled visits have had their executive members assigned and we are in the process of confirming Visitors for visits between March – June 2007. Due to the large number of visits to ODP programmes (27 in total) and supplementary prescribing programmes (21 in total), we are currently experiencing some difficulties in allocating visitors to all visits in this area. We are hopeful that we will be able to appoint one registrant visitor to each ODP visit along with one educationalist/academic visitor from another profession or lay visitor, with educationalist/academic experience.

We have had 8 visits cancelled to date. Of these 8, 5 have been rescheduled to later in the year. The 3 ‘free’ spaces have been reallocated to other education providers. We are now holding a ‘standby list’ and will attempt to reallocate cancelled visit slots to waiting education providers. There is no guarantee that this will result in a visit this year, so we are advising all new visit requests to delay the start of the programme until February 2008 or September 2008.

Annual Monitoring Process

The Department is currently finalising the revised publications and correspondence before the commencement of annual monitoring in 2006/07. The Department has contacted all education providers to confirm when their internal annual monitoring processes are complete, to help plan the assessment days and general workload of the process. The Department is planning to write to all education providers with specific information on what is required of them for this year’s annual monitoring within the next month. They will also receive an updated copy of the supplementary information and appropriate forms.

Minor and Major Change Process

The Department has received 13 minor/major change submissions between 1 September 2006 and 31 October 2006. Of these 13, an Approvals Panel has signed off four and nine are still under consideration. Of the four signed off, three were deemed to be a minor change and one deemed to be a major change. Although this was a major change, it was agreed that the programme still met the Standards of Education & Training and so there was no requirement for an approvals visit.

Communication with Stakeholders

HEI Presentations

The Department has completed the six presentations to education providers across the UK. Initial feedback from attendees at these presentations has been positive and they have used the questions & answers session to ask a range of questions specific to their institution and current experiences. The Department intends to collect formal feedback from attendees and presenters and use this to determine the nature of future presentations

Visitors

The Department is currently running the following visitor training sessions, in conjunction with the Partners Manager.

New visitor training	16 November 2006
New visitor training	11 December 2006
Refresher visitor training	10 January 2007
Refresher visitor training	16 January 2007

Publications

The Department is currently working on publishing the final copies of the approvals process and annual monitoring process supplementary information. It is hopeful that these will be available in December 2006. Unfortunately, there have been delays due to the publication of the Fees consultation document taking priority in September/October

The Department has recently begun work on updating the education section of the main HPC website. We hope to alter the layout of our pages and increase the accessibility of publications and forms, so that education providers have a greater pool of resources available to them about the approvals and monitoring processes. We also plan to work with the Communications Department to change the format of the Register of approved courses, so that potential applicants can search the approved programme list and link directly to education provider websites.

Overview of future work

The Department has recently drawn up the following work plan for the next year. It includes the main areas of work to be undertaken alongside the operation of the standard approvals and monitoring processes.

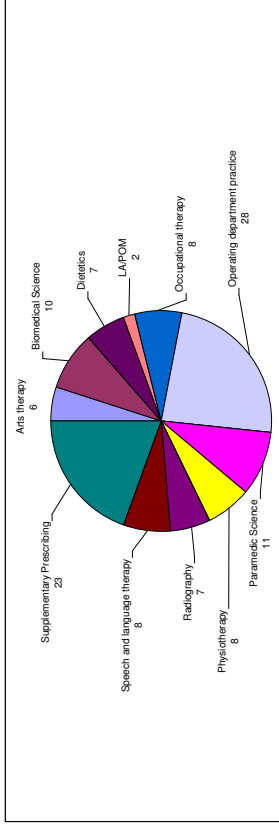
- Withdrawal of programme approval from historically approved programmes
- Review the approvals process for post-registration entitlement (LA/POM/SP) programmes
- Approve professional body (IBMS & ACS) programmes
- Approve IHCD programmes
- Review and relaunch the major/minor change process (including the HPC's position on cyclical reviews)
- Establish a process to consider issues relating to the 'fitness to practice of an approved programme'
- Visitor reappointments process (July 2007)

Employees

Chris Hipkins, a new Education Officer, started 30 October 2006. A final (fifth) Education Officer will be interviewed for in December 2006.

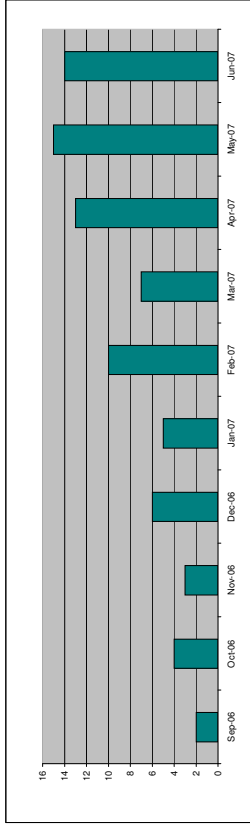
Breakdown of programmes to be visited, by profession (2006/07 academic year)

Profession	Number of Programmes to be visited	%
Arts therapy	6	5%
Biomedical Science	10	8%
Chiroprody and podiatry	0	0%
Clinical scientists	0	0%
Dietetics	7	6%
LAPOM	2	2%
Occupational therapy	8	7%
Operating department practice	28	24%
Podiatry	1	1%
Paramedic Science	11	9%
Physiotherapy	8	7%
Prosthetics and orthotics	0	0%
Radiography	7	6%
Speech and language therapy	8	7%
Supplementary Prescribing	23	19%



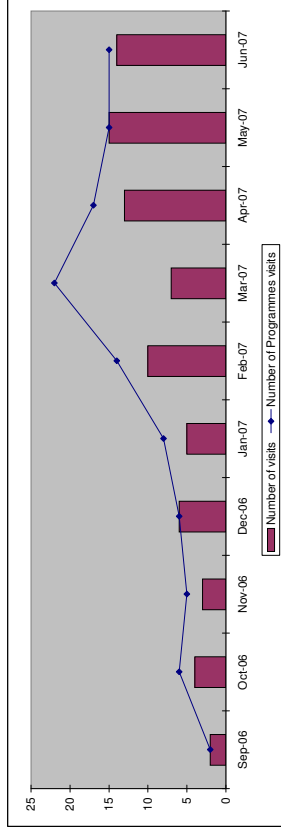
Breakdown of visits, by month (2006/07 academic year)

Month	Number of Visits	%
Sep-06	2	5%
Oct-06	4	5%
Nov-06	3	4%
Dec-06	6	8%
Jan-07	5	6%
Feb-07	10	13%
Mar-07	7	9%
Apr-07	13	15%
May-07	15	19%
Jun-07	14	18%



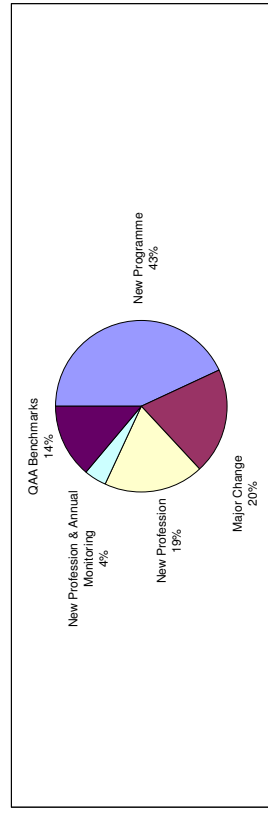
Comparison of number of visits and number of programmes visited by month (2006/07 academic year)

Month	Number of visits	Number of Programmes visited
Sep-06	2	2
Oct-06	4	6
Nov-06	3	5
Dec-06	6	6
Jan-07	5	8
Feb-07	10	24
Mar-07	7	17
Apr-07	13	17
May-07	15	15
Jun-07	14	15

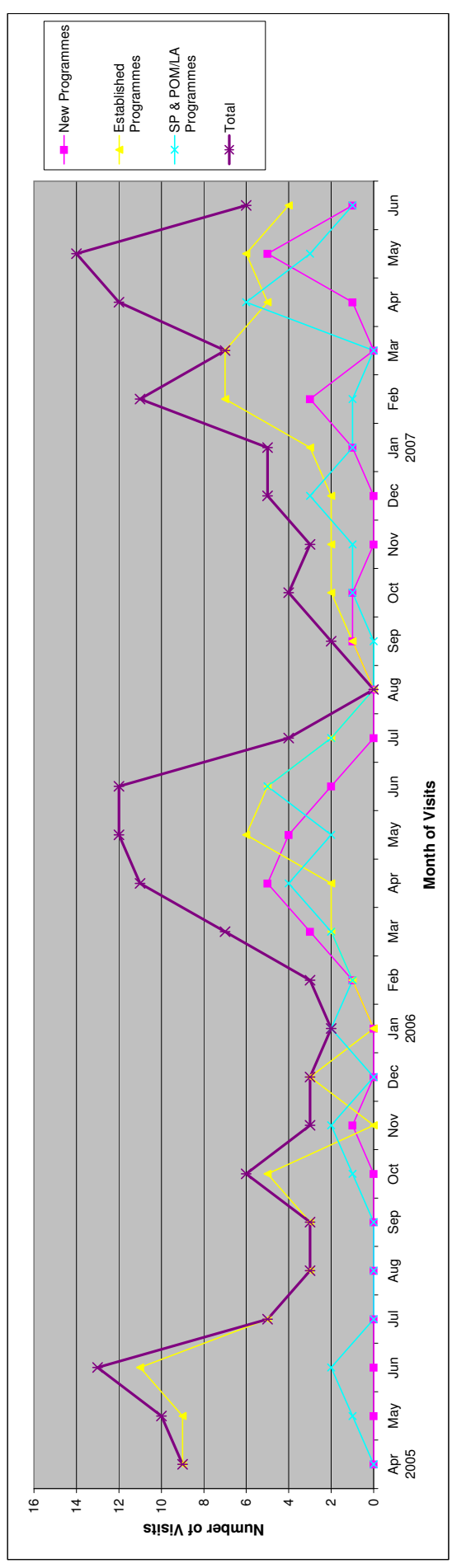


Breakdown of programmes to be visited, by reason (2006/07 academic year)

Reason for visit	Number of Programmes to be visited	%
New Programme	50	38%
Major Change	23	21%
New Profession	22	21%
New Profession & Annual Monitoring	5	5%
QAA Benchmarks	16	15%



Overview of Visits - April 2005 - June 2007



Approval/Visits	2005												2006												2007											
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun									
New Programmes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Established Programmes	9	9	11	5	3	3	5	0	3	0	1	2	2	6	5	2	0	1	2	2	2	3	7	7	5	6	5									
SP & POM/LA Programmes	0	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	2	4	2	4	2	5	2	0	0	1	1	3	1	1	0	7	3	5								
Total	9	10	13	5	3	3	3	3	2	3	7	11	12	4	0	2	4	3	6	4	3	6	5	10	7	13	15	14								

2003/4 FYE	2004/5 FYE	2005/6 FYE	2006/7 YTD
0	0	5	17
20	25	51	39
2	2	11	20
22	27	67	76

