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## Education and Training Committee

**Public minutes of the 40th meeting of the Education and Training Committee held as follows:-**

**Date:** Wednesday 20 May 2009

**Time:** 10:00am

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

**Present:** Ms E Thornton (Chairman)  
Professor K Bryan  
Ms H Davis  
Mr J Donaghy  
Ms C Farrell  
Dr S Hutchins  
Professor C Lloyd  
Professor J Lucas  
Mr A Mount  
Ms G Pearson  
Mr J Seneviratne  
Mrs B Stuart  
Professor D Waller  
Mr N Willis

**In attendance:**

Mr O Ammar, Education Manager  
Dr A van der Gaag, President  
Mrs A Gorringe, Director of Education  
Mr M Guthrie, Acting Director of Policy and Standards  
Ms C Harkin, Customer Services Manager  
Mr S Rayner, Secretary to the Committee  
Mr G Ross-Sampson, Director of Operations  
Mr M Seale, Chief Executive  
Ms C Urwin, Policy Manager

### **Item 1.09/33 Apologies for absence**

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Drayton, Professor J Harper and Ms P Sabine.

### **Item 2.09/34 Approval of agenda**

- 2.1 The Committee approved the agenda.
- 2.2 The Committee noted that an update to item 8, enclosure 5 had been tabled for consideration.

### **Item 3.09/35 Declarations of members' interests**

- 3.1 Professor Bryan and Mr Mount declared an interest in item 12 of the agenda, and left the room for the duration of that item.

### **Item 4.09/36 Minutes of the Education and Training Committee meeting of 25 March 2009 (report ref: ETC 23/09)**

- 4.1 It was agreed that the minutes of the 39th meeting of the Education and Training Committee should be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

### **Item 5.09/37 Matters arising (report ref: ETC 24/09)**

- 5.1 The Committee received a paper to note from the Executive presenting the actions list as agreed at the last meeting.
- 5.2 The Committee noted the actions list.

### **Item 6.09/38 Practitioner psychologists – Standards of proficiency (report ref: ETC 25/09)**

- 6.1 The Committee received a paper for discussion/approval from the Executive presenting draft Standards of Proficiency (SoPs) and the relating consultation responses document. The standards had been submitted to the Committee for consideration on 25 March, and were submitted again following subsequent amendments. The Committee were invited to discuss the SoPs and the consultation responses document.
- 6.2 The Committee noted that a number of standards had been removed from the original draft, and that a number of standards had been redrafted in line with the requests made at the last meeting.
- 6.3 The Committee noted that the standards had been presented in a structure that would allow the Committee to consider them. The

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Committee noted that whilst the standards would not change, the order in which they were presented would be changed when they were published.

- 6.4 The Committee agreed that under standard 1a.1, the wording: 'Understand the power imbalance between practitioners and clients and how this can be minimised' should be replaced with: 'understand the power imbalance with practitioners and clients and how this can be managed appropriately'. This amendment should be made for Health Psychologists and Sport and Exercise Psychologists only.
- 6.5 The Committee agreed to recommend to Council the text of the consultation responses document and the standards of proficiency, subject to the changes outlined above.

**Item 7.09/39 Practitioner psychologists – Threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register (report ref: ETC 26/09)**

- 7.1 The Committee received a paper for discussion/approval from the Executive presenting options for the threshold level of qualification for entry to the register for practitioner psychologists. The Committee were invited to discuss the threshold and the relating consultation responses document.
- 7.2 As the threshold level has to be set at the level considered necessary to achieve the standards of proficiency, the Committee’s discussion focused on the level of qualification that, in its opinion, was necessary to successfully deliver those standards of proficiency. The Committee noted an argument had been made that the level of qualification required in all domains of psychology practice was D level / Level 12 on the relevant qualifications frameworks but that other respondents to the consultation had put forward contrary points of view. The Committee also had regard to the existing education and training routes in the field.
- 7.3 The Committee considered three broad options:
  - 1. Doctorate for the whole of the practitioner psychologists part of the Register.
  - 2. Doctorate for specific domains with other arrangements to reflect the entry routes in the remaining domains.
  - 3. Masters level (with further training/ experience, or similar wording) for the whole of the practitioner psychologists part of the Register.
- 7.4 The Committee rejected option 1 outright. The Committee gave consideration to option 2 and to option 3 and made its recommendation following a vote.

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- 7.5 The Committee agreed that it was minded to set the threshold at a masters degree or masters level because it believed that the standards of proficiency could be delivered by programmes at that level. However, the Committee also noted that, in all domains, a masters degree programme did not in itself confer eligibility to register and therefore the wording of any threshold set needed to reflect this.
- 7.6 For example, in occupational psychology, many entrants undertake a masters degree followed by stage two of the BPS qualification in occupational psychology, which currently leads to Chartered status as an Occupational Psychologist with membership of the Division of Occupational Psychology. The Committee noted that in other domains, some or all entrants complete a doctoral programme which leads directly to eligibility to register.
- 7.7 The Committee agreed to recommend to the Council the text of the consultation responses document. The Committee agreed by a majority of 10/3 to recommend to the Council that the threshold level of qualification for entry to the practitioner psychologists part of the register should be a masters degree, but that this recommendation should be subject to the development of wording that reflected that further training and experience would also be required to be eligible for the register.
- 7.8 The Committee noted that it would be important to be clear in its communication that this was not a reduction of standards. There was a clear difference between the threshold level required for public safety and the standards established by professions in order to develop.

**Item 8.09/40 Registration cycle and grandparenting criteria for practitioner psychologists: Consultation responses (report ref: ETC 27/09)**

- 8.1 The Committee received a paper for discussion/approval from the Executive presenting proposed amendments to the Registration and Fees Rules, draft grandparenting criteria and relating consultation responses documents in preparation for the opening of the register to practitioner psychologists.
- 8.2 The Committee recommended to Council:
- a) the text of the consultation document for publication on the HPC website (subject to minor editing amendments);
  - b) amendments as directed in paper ETC 27/09 to schedule five of the Health Professions Council (Registration and Fees) Rules Order of Council 2003; and
  - c) the grandparenting criteria for practitioner psychologists (subject to minor editing amendments).

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**Item 9.09/41 Review of admission forms (report ref: ETC 28/09)**

- 9.1 The Committee received a paper for discussion/approval from the Executive presenting proposed changes to HPC registration forms. The changes had been made following a review of the forms in preparation for the opening of the register to practitioner psychologists.
- 9.2 The Committee agreed to recommend to Council the updated registration forms subject to minor editing amendments.

**Item 10.09/42 Any other business**

- 10.1 There was no other business.

**Item 11.09/43 Date and time of next meeting**

- 11.1 The next meeting of the Committee would be held at 10.30 am on Thursday 11 June 2009.
- 11.2 Subsequent meetings would be held at 10.30 am on
  - Tuesday 22 September 2009
  - Wednesday 25 November 2009
  - Wednesday 10 March 2010
  - Tuesday 8 June 2010

**Resolution**

The Committee agreed to adopt the following resolution:

'The Committee hereby resolves that the remainder of the meeting shall be held in private, because the matters being discussed relate to one or more of the following;

- (1) information relating to a registrant, former registrant or applicant for registration;
- (2) information relating to an employee or officer holder, former employee or applicant for any post or office;
- (3) the terms of, or expenditure under, a tender or contract for the purchase or supply of goods or services or the acquisition or disposal of property;
- (4) negotiations or consultation concerning labour relations between the Council and its employees;
- (5) any issue relating to legal proceedings which are being contemplated or instituted by or against the Committee or the Council;
- (6) action being taken to prevent or detect crime or to prosecute offenders;
- (7) the source of information given to the Committee in confidence; or

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(8) any other matter which, in the opinion of the Chairman, is confidential or the public disclosure of which would prejudice the effective discharge of the Committee's or Council's functions.'

Item	Reason for exclusion
12	5,7
13	5,7
14	5,7

**Summary of those matters considered whilst the public were excluded**

**Item 12.09/44 Minutes of the private part of the Education and Training Committee of 25 March 2009 (report ref: ETC 29/09)**

The Committee considered and approved the minutes of the private part of the Education and Training Committee meeting held on 25 March 2009. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

**Item 13.09/45 Matters arising (report ref: ETC 30/09)**

The Committee noted the matters arising from the minutes of the private part of the Education and Training Committee held on 25 March 2009.

**Item 14.09/46 South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust (report ref: ETC 31/09)**

On 25 March 2009 having considered the Visitors report on the South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAMB) IHCD Paramedic Award programme, the Committee informed SECAMB that it was minded to withdraw approval from the programme, setting out its reasons and provided SECAMB with 28 days to make any representations it wished to make. Having considered the evidence, including the representations made, the Committee decided to withdraw approval effective immediately.

**Item 15.09/47 Any other business**

There was no other business.

**Chairman**

**Date**

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