

**Visitors' Report
Annual Monitoring**

Section One: Programme Details

Name of education provider	Birmingham City University
Name of awarding institution (if different from education provider)	N/A
Name & Title of Programme	BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy
Mode of Delivery	Full time Part time
Name of HPC Visitor(s) considering audit submission	Gillian Stevenson (Speech and Language Therapist) Nikki Smith (Physiotherapist)
Name of Education Officer	Tracey Samuel-Smith

Please tick to confirm the documents submitted by the education provider and list any additional documentation submitted in support of the audit submission:

- A completed HPC audit form
- Internal quality report 2006/2007
- Internal quality report 2007/2008
- External Examiner's Report 2006/2007
- External Examiner's Report 2007/2008
- Response to External Examiner's report 2006/2007
- Response to External Examiner's report 2007/2008

Section Two: Recommendation of the Visitor(s)

Please select one of the following recommendations to the Education & Training Committee–

- An Approval visit is required to consider the following Standards of Education and Training - SET 2, SET 3, SET 4, SET 5 and SET 6.

Visitors' signatures:

Name: Gillian Stevenson

Date: 23 April 2009

Name: Nikki Smith

Date: 23 April 2009

Date	Ver.	Dept/Cmte	Doc Type	Title	Status	Int. Aud.
2009-04-23	a	EDU	APV	AM Visitors Report - Birmingham City University	Final DD: None	Public RD: None

Section Three: Additional details

SET 2: Programme admissions

The entry and selection criteria has changed but the review of these changes has not yet been completed as the education provider is waiting for the students to go on placement. An assessment of the new entry and selection criteria will occur after the placement. The visitors did not receive any information about the new entry and selection criteria and therefore are unable to comment whether the standards under programme admissions continue to be met.

SET 3: Programme management and resource standards

The programme annual review (July 2008), identified a number of areas which the education provider planned to change as a result of student feedback. This included concerns about the attendance policy; the resources available to students (such as the unreliability of IT, resources not being sufficient for the module); programme management (classes being cancelled and how the module is delivered at short notice, limited feedback to students, insufficient placements). The visitors were concerned about the number and range of standards within SET 3 which had been identified as requiring a change by the education provider and feel that the most appropriate action to ensure that these standards continue to be met is through a visit.

SET 4: Curriculum standards

The education provider has identified that there have been changes to the way the modules are delivered at short notice, such as increasing the level of self directed study. The visitors felt that this impacts on how students are taught and therefore how students can meet the SOPs.

SET 5: Practice placements standards

The programme annual review (July 2008) states that the education provider has experienced ongoing problems finding sufficient placements. The visitors are therefore concerned that students may not be able to attend the required placements which may have an impact on how they meet the SOPs. The visitors are therefore concerned that the placements may not be integral to the programme or the number, duration and range of placements may not be appropriate.

Comments made by the programme team stated that students did not fully understand placements prior to attending. The programme team have suggested ways of resolving this, such as additional clinical sessions before placements in order to prepare. The visitors would like to ensure that students are fully informed about the expectations of them prior to attending the placement.

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SET 6: Assessment standards

The education provider has identified that there have been changes to the way the modules are delivered at short notice, such as increasing the level of self directed study. As stated under SET 4, the visitors felt that this impacts on how students are taught and therefore how students can meet the SOPs. The visitors also felt that a change to how a module is taught may have had resulting changes on the assessment for the module and would like to ensure that the assessments measure the learning outcomes and skills required to practise safely and effectively.

The education provider also identified that assessment regulations have changed (re-sits have changed to 4) and the visitors were concerned this may not enable a student to demonstrate fitness to practice.

Further comments

The visitors noted the programme leader changed in autumn 2008. Whilst this falls out of the current annual monitoring submission, the visitors' would like to ensure that this is addressed via a major change or at the approval event which they have recommended.

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