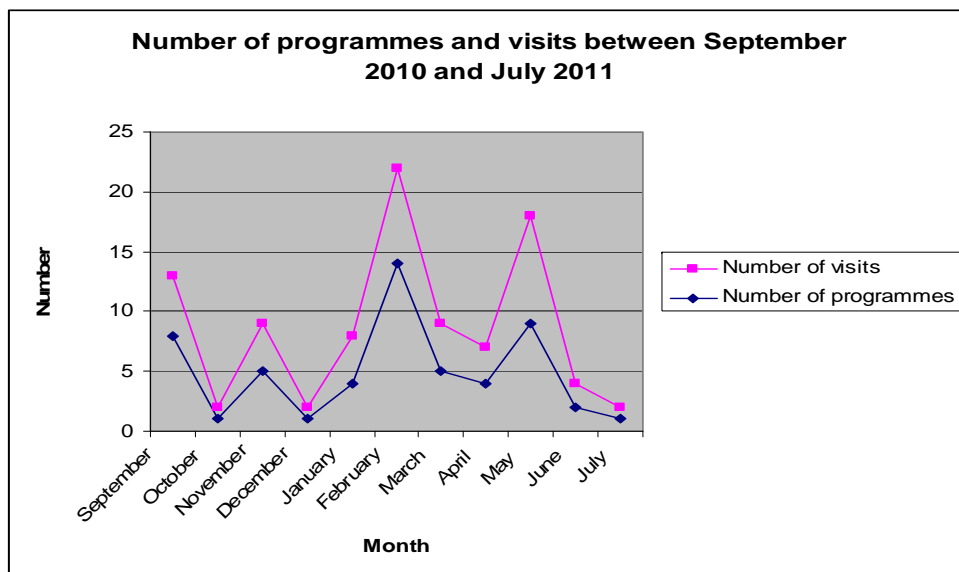


Approval process

The Department has spent the last few months completing the schedule of visits for the remainder of the academic year and organising approval visits for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 academic years. The deadline for education providers wanting to arrange visits in 2010/2011 is December 2010. So far, the number of visits arranged between September 2010 – July 2011 is as follows:



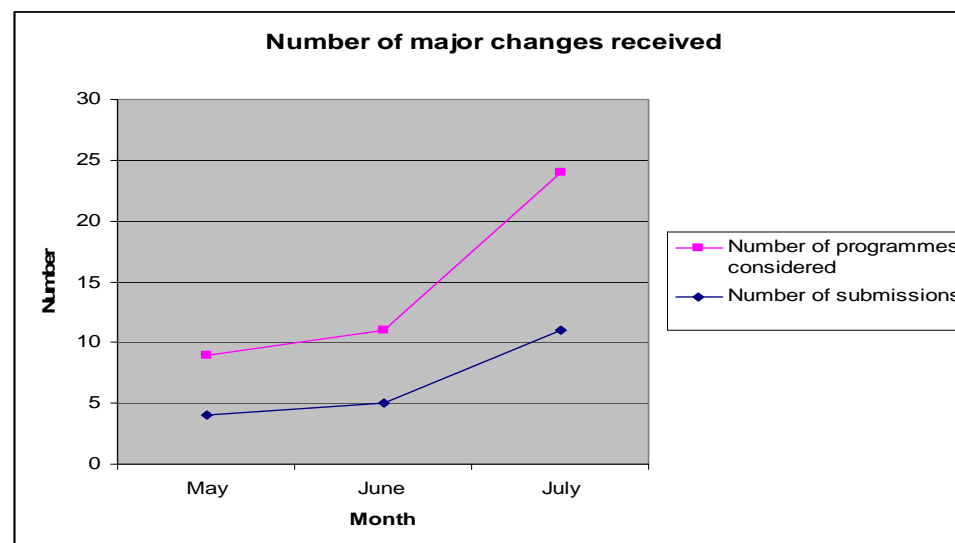
Annual monitoring process

The Department has spent the last few months preparing for the final annual monitoring assessment days in the 2009-2010 academic year, which took place on 15 and 17 June. Seven visitors attended each of the assessment days and the programmes considered were from the following professions; radiography, paramedic, supplementary prescribing, biomedical science, dietetics, speech and language therapy, music therapy, operating department practitioner, physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

Following the peak activity from February 2010 – July 2010, we have seen a decline in the submission of annual monitoring declarations as we move into the summer vacation. The last submission deadline for this academic year was Tuesday 31 August 2010 and any outstanding audit submissions and declarations were anticipated to be sent to the August and September Education and Training Panels to allow the Department to close off annual monitoring for this year. The scheduling process for annual monitoring in the 2010-2011 academic year began in week commencing 16 August.

Major change process

As expected, based on figures from the previous two academic years we have seen a peak in the number of major change submissions during May – July 2010. Whilst the number of major change notifications that we have received has increased over the summer period the number of submissions is considerably lower than last year at the same time. Since the last Education and Training Committee meeting on 8 June 2010 we have received 30 new major change notifications, as shown below:



New professions – Practitioner Psychologists and Hearing Aid Dispensers

The Department has continued to strengthen communications with practitioner psychologists, particularly via collaborative working with the British Psychological Society (BPS). The Department met with the BPS Membership and Quality Assurance teams on 27 August 2010 to discuss the differences between the processes and requirements used by the BPS and HPC in relation to historical qualifications. Training has been arranged for the Department so that more people in the team are able to handle any potential practitioner psychology historical qualification queries.

Education providers have requested that the HPC and BPS work more closely in relation to standards so that there is greater clarity of expectation. The BPS have expressed a willingness to use the same documents as HPC wherever possible and collaborative working between the organisations has been successful at the recent practitioner psychologist approval visits.

Following the opening of the Hearing Aid Dispenser (HAD) Register on 1 April 2010, the Department continues to work on individual areas of responsibility, as identified in the Education Department HAD work plan. This includes the organisation of a series of HAD presentations and seminars for education providers, due to take place in Birmingham and London in November and December 2010. Data cleansing activities have also taken place during the past few months, alongside an exercise to update all contacts in the Education database. Further data cleansing activities will take place via the October edition of the Education update.

Counsellors and Psychotherapists

The next Psychotherapists and Counsellors PLG meeting will take place on 30 September 2010. We await further information from Government regarding the prioritisation of new professions, which may impact upon the future regulation of psychotherapists and

counsellors by the HPC. Again, the same is true for dance movement therapists.

Health Care Scientists Modernising Scientific Careers

The Department of Health are continuing the work of the Advisory Group to the Education and Training Board. Whilst further meetings are taking place to continue discussions around the purpose, function and structure of the Education and Training Board, the Director of Education no longer attends the meetings. It is still anticipated that the Education and Training Board will be an education provider awarding certification following completion of periods of supervised practice preceded by academic qualifications, which will require approval in a similar way to all other education providers' programmes.

Publications

Over the last few months the Department has continued to prepare our third and fourth annual reports for publication, in conjunction with the Communications Department. The reports cover the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 academic years and were submitted for discussion at the last meeting of the ETC on 8 June 2010. The reports are still on track to be distributed in October 2010. Hard copies of the 2008-2009 report will be produced, whereas the 2007-2008 report will only be distributed electronically.

Whilst it was hoped that the report on approval visits to paramedic education and training programmes delivered by ambulance trusts would be issued electronically with the October Education update, the requirement to seek additional information from education providers means it is now likely that the report will be issued with the January 2011 edition of the Education update instead.

Of the two further publications planned for this year, the project plan for the updated *annual monitoring process supplementary information* has been finalised and is on track for publication in the

first half of the financial year, and work on the introduction to the Education process document will not commence until January 2011 as planned.

Website

Following the introduction of the searchable list of approved programmes in May, the following information has been added to the Education section of the HPC website:

- the historical list of approved programmes
- approval visit reports
- withdrawal of approval information

The Department are currently liaising with the Communications Department to produce 'audience pages' for the website. The audience pages are designed to be alternative versions of the home page to assist users in finding the information that is relevant for them more quickly, and are aimed particularly at new users to the website. The Education Department will have audience pages for education providers and prospective registrants. Education providers will be advised of the change in the October edition of the Education update to reduce confusion and promote the new resource.

Database

The first phase of upgrades to the in-house database by the external supplier, MSM, are now complete following several amendments as a result of user feedback. The Department has now received training around the new functions and additions. Members of the Department met with MSM and the HPC's Infrastructure Support Manager to discuss requirements for the second phase of the upgrade. A work plan for phase two was produced by MSM, and following approval from the Director of Education, work on the upgrades commenced in September 2010. It is expected that this second phase of the upgrades will be completed within three months.

Partners

Following interviews for three dietitian visitors on 22, 23 and 25 June, the three vacancies have been filled. A further position was offered to a fourth candidate in anticipation of the natural attrition rate during the reappointment process this year.

Now that Gerald Armstrong-Bednall has joined the Education and Training Committee, recruitment for a further clinical scientist/hearing aid dispenser visitor will begin shortly.

The Partners Department have now rolled out the revised performance appraisals for all visitors. There is no direct involvement for the Education Department, although assessments will take place at approval visits and assessment days. It is anticipated that the peer review process will improve visitor performance and assist in identifying training needs.

Education provider seminars

The Department has spent the last few months organising the 2010-2011 education provider seminars. This year the seminars will focus on a theme of student conduct and ethics following the publication of our recent guidance documents. As a result of the opening of the HAD Register in April this year, two further seminars aimed at education providers running hearing aid dispenser programmes have also been arranged. Dates and locations for the seminars are as follows:

Venue	Date
Glasgow	13 October
Belfast	26 October
Birmingham (HAD)	3 November
Birmingham	4 November
Cardiff	17 November
York	23 November
London (HAD)	6 December
London	8 December

Liaison with stakeholders

The fifth issue of the Education update is due to be distributed to education providers, visitors, professional body representatives and other stakeholders in week commencing 11 October 2010. Work will shortly begin on the October edition, which will include initial annual monitoring correspondence. At this stage the following articles are due to be included:

- Forward planning for all professions and a reminder to practitioner psychologist programmes
- Education seminars - student conduct performance and ethics and hearing aid dispensers
- Consultation on post-registration qualifications
- Annual monitoring - supplementary information for education providers
- Education audience pages on the website
- Consultation on proposed changes to the generic standards of proficiency
- Results of consultation on SOPs for health psychologists
- Changes to HPC registration applications - removing the health reference
- Data cleansing exercise following the database upgrade for programme leaders
- Guidance on the FTP processes
- Social work update
- Hearing aid dispenser update
- The Education Department Annual Report
- Historical lists of approved programmes on website

Members of the Department have met with the following groups between June 2010 – September 2010;

- Department of Health Allied Health Professions Medicines Board Education and Governance working groups
- University of Manchester Clinical Psychologist annual review forum

- British Psychological Society
- The Head of Social Work and Dean of the School of Health at the University of Northampton
- East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (in conjunction with the Fitness to Practise Department)
- Isle of Wight NHS PCT - Ambulance Services (in conjunction with the Fitness to Practise Department)
- HPC Annual Meeting
- Educational Psychology National Forum

Projects

Overall projects are progressing well. However uncertainty from government surrounding the priority placed on regulation of the new professions or other regulatory initiatives means some project until more information becomes available. Once we have received this information the work plan will be updated as necessary.

Employees

There have been no resignations or new appointments. The Department is fully recruited.

The Department's annual away day took place on Tuesday 24 August and was held at the Churchill Museum and Cabinet War Rooms. The away day was an opportunity for the Department to spend time together outside of the usual office environment, with the theme of the day being an exploration of individual communication skills within the team and the opportunity to build on and improve our existing presentation skills.