

Health Professions Council
Department of Education and Policy

Visitors' Report

Name of education provider	New College Durham
Name and titles of programme(s)	Local Analgesia Certificate
Date of event	16th November 2004
Proposed date of approval to commence	End November 2004
Name of HPC visitors attending (including member type and professional area)	Paul Frowen (Podiatrist) Pamela Sabine (Podiatrist)
HPC Executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Fiona Nixon (Director of Education & Policy)
Joint panel members in attendance (name and delegation):	n/a

Scope of visit (please tick)

New programme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major change to existing programme	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visit initiated through Annual Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 1.

1.1 Confirmation of meetings held

	yes	no	n/a
Senior personnel of provider with responsibility for resources for the programme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programme planning team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Placements providers and educators	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.2 Confirmation of facilities viewed

	yes	No
Library learning centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
IT facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Specialist teaching accommodation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.3 Confirmation that particular requirements/specific instructions (if any) of the Education and Training Committee that have been explored e.g. specific aspects arising from annual monitoring reports.

Requirement (please insert detail)	yes	No	n/a
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Proposed student cohort intake number please state	24
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The following summarises the key outcomes of the approvals event and provides reasons for the decision.

CONDITIONS

SET 2: Programme admissions

The admission procedures must:

2.2 apply selection criteria, including:

2.2.5 Accreditation of Prior Learning and other inclusion mechanisms

Condition: The APL system employed for the programme leading to a certificate of competence for the supply and administration of local analgesics should be the same as that used to admit students to the undergraduate programme in podiatry that is approved by HPC. It should ensure that the level of prerequisite knowledge required to successfully complete the course in analgesia is commensurate with that of students on the approved programme who are studying the comparable component.

Reason: The anticipated cohorts of students who wish to pursue this programme will include many who are recently registered, but have not completed a programme approved by the HPC. In order for them to succeed on the programme the base line knowledge will need to be one which will be appropriate to the level of study required for the certificated course.

SET 5. Practice placements standards

5.2 There must be an adequate number of appropriately qualified and experienced staff at the placement.

Condition: The selection criteria for mentors must be clearly identified and a handbook produced which defines the role of the mentor, the training requirements, the assessment methodology and the issues arising in relation to patient consent and student treatment.

Reason: There is a perceived need to increase the number of individuals who will have a responsibility for practice supervision and assessment. To ensure the mentors are able to fulfill the providers perceived needs, such needs must be clearly articulated

SET 6. Assessment standards

6.2 Assessment methods must be employed that measure the learning outcomes and skills that are required to practise safely and effectively.

Condition: The assessment of practice must ensure that a range of techniques for the administration of local analgesic agents is evaluated.

Reason: The document tended to relate to numbers of assessed procedures rather than ensuring that ring blockades, infiltrations and other techniques were monitored. The Visitors wished to ensure that a range of techniques were assessed within the numbers specified.

6.6 Professional aspects of practice must be integral to the assessment procedures in both the education setting and practice placement.

Condition: The external examiner must be from the same part of the Register and be experienced in administration of local analgesic agents in the practice of podiatry. S/he should also have experience of assessment of such procedures in programmes approved by HPC.

Reason: The use of analgesic agents to facilitate podiatric practice requires knowledge of the types of procedures used and the most appropriate techniques to achieve analgesia for a given technique. This could only be achieved by an individual with that skill and knowledge. It was also considered important that the external examiner should be experienced in the assessment of such skills, since a range of mentors are to be used, of whom some may have little experience of assessment.

Deadline for *Conditions* to be met: 26 November 2004

To be submitted to Education and Training C'ttee on: 16th February 2004

Recommendations

SET 3. Programme management and resource standards

3.5 Subject areas must be taught by staff with relevant specialist expertise and knowledge.

Recommendation: The programme team should consider the term 'mentor' within the documentation. The role emerging within the event exceeded the perceived role of mentor and the Visitors would strongly suggest the use of a title that is more appropriate to the task.

Reason: The Visitors felt that the role identified was one which encompassed education, mentoring, counselling, clinical supervision and practice assessment. It was felt that this went beyond the role of mentor and the title should reflect the activities more accurately.

SET 4. Curriculum Standards

4.2 The programme must reflect the philosophy, values, skills and knowledge base as articulated in the curriculum guidance for the profession.

Recommendation: References to specific professional bodies should be removed from the documentation.

Reason: Podiatry has more than one professional body. Reference to a single body is therefore inappropriate

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Date: 20th November 2004