

**Agenda Item 13**

**Enclosure 6**

**Paper ETC 30/02**

**Education and Training Committee**

**PROPOSALS FOR A REGISTER OF APPROVED  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROVISION**

**From the Executive**

**FOR DISCUSSION AND AGREEMENT**

**Draft**

**Executive Summary**

This paper describes the need for a register of approved education and training provision, the background to it, and a proposal for taking the work forward.

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 The Health Professions Order (HPO) 2001 Part IV, Section 15 (8) requires the Health Professions Council (HPC) to, " . . . . maintain and publish a list of the courses of education or training, qualifications and institutions –

(a) which are for the time being approved under this Order; or

(b) which have been approved under this Order but which are no longer so approved, together with a record of the periods in respect of which they were approved. "

1.2 This is a new requirement in this format.

1.3 It is acknowledged in the consultation exercise but is not itself a matter for consultation, there being no discretion over it.

## **2. Current Position**

2.1 The information needed for a definitive register of approved courses already exists in two places. The first is in the Privy Council Office's records of approvals of courses, examinations and qualifications made under Sections 4(1) (a – b) of the Professions Supplementary to Medicine (PSM) Act, 1960 (and which always had the corresponding institutional approvals under Section 4(1)(c) of the PSM Act submitted alongside). The second location is in each of the twelve published Registers for the former Boards at the Council for Professions Supplementary to Medicine (CPSM) where all approved and re-approved provision and institutions under Sections 4(1) (a – c) and 5 of the PSM Act were shown.

2.2 Because the twelve CPSM Registers were statutorily independent of each other, each is formatted differently. Bringing the information into a common format will be in practice the main task.

## **3. Other Information Sources**

3.1 The data needed for HPC's register does also exist elsewhere in the higher education (HE) sector in places such as the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service's (UCAS) " big book " (the official title) or the Higher Education Statistics Authority's (HESA) data base. The difficulty with bodies such as UCAS or HESA is that their data is generally published in aggregated form, where the courses specifically approved for State Registration are not readily identifiable. This problem also applies at the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). These bodies do not see it as their function to disaggregate their data for purposes as specific as HPC's.

3.2 Each Further or Higher Education Institution (FHEI) delivering or awarding approved provision and qualifications holds the relevant data for its own purposes. A recent requirement from QAA is for each course to have a " programme specification ". A catalogue of these would provide a digest of the content of approved provision, and this will be explored below.

#### 4. Previous Register

Up to about three years ago a register of courses was produced and published annually by the Health & Care Professions Education Forum (H&CPEF). This is an informal grouping of professional body (PB) education departments. Their register did bring all the approved courses into one document in a consistent format; CPSM could have duplicated but not bettered it. It is currently in abeyance.

#### 5. Uses of the Register : Careers Advice

- 5.1 The main use of the H&CPEF Register was in careers advice, which is a mainstream PB function, but was not carried out by CPSM. Careers advice generally falls to the four UK Health Departments, the four UK Education Departments, the local authority education services, the PBs, and UCAS.
- 5.2 Any future Register would also be likely to have careers advice as its main audience.
- 5.3 HPC could also move into careers advice if it wished, but this would have significant resource implications, and the added value of an additional player here would need to be demonstrated.

#### 6. Proposal for a Collaboration for the Register

- 6.1 HPC must and will produce its own Register, and if any collaborative arrangements were inappropriate or failed it would have to take back the function fully in-house.
- 6.2 There is, however, an offer to explore a collaborative venture between HPC, the Learning for Teaching Support Network for Health and Scientific Practice (LTSN), and H&CPEF. LTSN is a Government funded body providing curriculum and other central support to health and scientific courses in HE.
- 6.3 The proposal is that the Register be prepared as a part of LTSN's web-site (down-loadable as a publication) and be managed at LTSN. HPC and H&CPEF would contribute their requirements, knowledge and expertise to the web-site and be responsible for keeping it up-to-date. Protocols for access to and changes to the web-site would be agreed. LTSN would facilitate hyper-links to other relevant HE sites, and in particular to the programme specifications for the courses listed. HPC would need to make both a human resources and financial contribution but it would be both cheaper than setting up the register in-house and produce a much more comprehensive final document.