

**Education & Training Committee
(13 October 2004)**

Department of Education & Policy

Director's Report

1. Approvals Visits

The educational programmes listed in the table below (in chronological order) will be visited for approval between now and 31 December 2004.

Name of HEI	Title of Programme(s)	Date of Visit
Leeds Metropolitan University	MA Art Psychotherapy Practice	30 th September 2004
Leeds Metropolitan University	MSc in Physiotherapy MSc in Occupational Therapy	20/21 st October 2004
University of East Anglia	MSc Occupational Therapy (pre-reg)	8 th October 2004
Plymouth University	Clinical Placement visit – podiatry (old process)	12 th November 2004
University of East London	Clinical Placement visit – podiatry (old process)	16 th November 2004
Ulster University	Clinical Placement visit – podiatry (old process)	November 2004
New College Durham	Course leading to certificate of competence in LA(podiatry)	November 2004
New College Durham	Clinical Placement visit – podiatry (old process)	November/December 2004
Manchester Metropolitan University	BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy	2/3 rd December 2004
Anglia Polytechnic University	Course leading to certificate of competence in LA(podiatry)	3 rd December 2004
University of Teesside	BSc (Hons) Allied Health Professions (Pre-Qualification, Diagnostic Radiography, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy)	December 2004

The additional clinical placement visit to Matthew Boulton is still outstanding and the premises will not be ready until 2005. This approval will move to the new process.

The Department is currently in the process of assessing the forward commitments and requirements for approvals visits. Visitor capacity will then be assessed against each profession and planning will commence around possible dates for required visits

taking into account the available resources of the Department (a member of the HPC executive is required to be in attendance at each visit).

2. New Educational Providers

The following new educational providers have expressed an interest in having their courses approved for registration purposes by the HPC:

- Tobias
- Hibernia
- Institute for Arts in Therapy and Education (IATE)

The latter two organisations have been sent a letter informing them of the new Approvals process together with copies of the SETs and SoPs and instructions on how to proceed. These will go before the Approvals Committee when documentation is received and a visit requires to be arranged. This visit would be with regard to approval of both the education provider and the programme(s). The Director is currently reviewing the Tobias application to ascertain the current state of play.

3. Forward Programme of Approvals and Annual Monitoring

As with approvals visits the Department is currently in the process of assessing the forward commitments and requirements for annual monitoring. Visitor capacity will then be assessed against each profession. Work will require to be undertaken to set up the operational aspects of delivering the annual monitoring and cyclical review processes. Part of this work will include writing to individual educational providers to ascertain internal monitoring timetables and at the same time institutions will be asked to check their data currently held by the HPC as part of a data cleansing exercise.

4. Aspirant Groups

The Register for the Operating Department Practitioners will open on 18 December and the Standards of Proficiency published shortly after. The HPC is currently considering the following additional groups for inclusion in the Register:

- *Medical Illustrators*: approved at the last Council meeting.
- *Applied Psychologists*: meeting being arranged with the British Psychological Society (BPS) regarding the drafting of Standards of Proficiency with a view to receiving the 'final' draft from the BPS by end February 2005.
- *Healthcare Scientists*
- *Dance Movement Therapists*

5. Visitor Training

Five one-day training sessions have been held throughout September for experienced visitors. Draft documentation was used at these events and the feedback obtained will inform the development of the two-day training sessions to be held in the new year. This will be a rolling programme offered over a number of months to train the outstanding Visitors. A few Visitors who attended the one-day events have signed up to attend the fuller two-day event.

To date a total of 136 Visitors have been trained in the following professions:

Art Therapists	12
Chiropodists/Podiatrists	21
Clinical Scientists	3
Dietitians	13
Biomedical Scientists	1
Occupational Therapists	18
Orthoptics	1
Prosthetists & Orthotists	0
Paramedics	7
Physiotherapists	12
Radiographers	29
Speech & Language Therapists	15
Lay Visitors	4
Total	136

It is the intention to write out to Visitors by profession in the new calendar year to inform them of the number of annual monitoring evaluations in which they may be involved and the volume of visits which will be required over the coming (calendar) year, at which time we will also have clarification on the role of the Lay Visitor in the approvals and monitoring processes.

6. Stakeholder Management

Over the last two months the Director has undertaken the following with regard to stakeholder management:

- *Registrants:* attended the CPD consultation event in London.
- *Registrant and Lay Partners:* participated in five Visitor training sessions and presented four break-out sessions at the Partners Conference;
- *Council Members:* met at meetings of Education & Training Committee, Approvals Committee and Council.
- *Partnership Framework:* attended an Operational Group meeting and an OQME Planning meeting, and briefed Professor Tony Hazell regarding attendance at a further Approvals Planning meeting;
- *QAA:* met with Pat Le Rolland to get background on QAA in England and the Partnership Framework in particular;
- *Aspirant Groups:* met representatives of the Department of Health and Professional Bodies for three of the four Healthcare Science groups seeking regulation; met the RCCP aspirant group;
- *Professional Bodies:* met the IBMS regarding the approval of educational programmes for potential Biomedical registrants, and currently arranging a meeting with the Paramedics Professional Body regarding education in that field and the involvement of the Institute of Health Care Development (IHCD);
- *Other Regulators:* in the process of setting up a meeting with the NMC;
- *HPW:* have made contact with the intention of spending a day in Wales meeting different representatives there;

- *Department of Health:* arranged meetings with operational officers of both the education and legislative units of the Department of Health during October;
- *Education Providers:* attended the HPC's first approvals event under the new process at the University of Leeds and the Sheffield Healthcare Trust meeting representatives of both organisations; at the Partnership Framework OQME Planning meeting met representatives of the University College Chester, the Chester Strategic Health Authority and the local Healthcare Trust.

During October the Director will meet further stakeholders as follows::

- *NHS Modernisation Agency:* meeting on Developing a National Accreditation System for the NHS;
- *Emap Healthcare:* to discuss the Open Learning Nurse Prescribing Programme;
- *Department of Health:* together with the HPC President and Chief Executive meet with Nic Greenfield (Director) and John Ennis (Branch Head) from the Model Career Portfolio, Workforce Directorate;
- *Registrants:* meet with Registrants at the CPD consultations in Fort William, Glasgow, Hastings and Swansea.
- *Educational Providers:* attend a second approvals event (joint and multi-professional) at Leeds Metropolitan University, which will also include the Professional Body for Occupational Therapy.

7. Resources

During October adverts will be placed for the following new posts in the Department of Education & Training:

Manager (Approvals/Monitoring)
Education Officer x 2
Team Administrator

Cathy Savage will become the Manager (Aspirant Groups/CPD). Karen Scott, currently a temporary employee working within the Department who has attended a number of our CPD consultations as a notetaker, has successfully applied for the maternity cover for Cathy, who will go on maternity leave at the Christmas break and return at the end of July 2005. Ulua Falk has decided that she would like to spend more time with her family and will not be returning following her maternity leave – we wish her well for the future. Tom Berrie is currently off on sick leave but will move to work directly for the Chief Executive on his return. A further post of Manager (Policy) is currently being explored with a view to an internal secondment.

Fiona Nixon
(30 September 2004)