

**Health Professions Council  
Education and Training Committee, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2007  
Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs): Update**

**Executive Summary and Recommendations**

**Introduction**

At its meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2006, the Education and Training Committee agreed its interim position with regards to proposals to annotate the Register to indicate where an Occupational Therapist has been approved by a local authority to act under the Mental Health Act as an Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP). The attached paper updates the Committee.

**Decision**

This paper is for information only.

**Background information**

Paper considered by the Education and Training Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2007:

[http://www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/100014BFeducation\\_and\\_training\\_committee\\_20060928\\_enclosure10.pdf](http://www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/100014BFeducation_and_training_committee_20060928_enclosure10.pdf)

**Resource implications**

None

**Financial implications**

None

**Background papers**

None

**Appendices**

None

**Date of paper**

16th March 2007

## **Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs): Update**

### **Introduction**

The role of Approved Mental Health Professional will replace the existing role 'Approved Social Worker' and be open to Social Workers, Nurses and Occupational Therapists. It will allow those who have undertaken appropriate training and who have been 'approved' by a local authority, to act on their behalf performing functions under mental health legislation.

The interim position agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2006 raised the following comments in relation to proposals to annotate the register to record the approval by local authorities of occupational therapists to act as AMHPs:

- There was a lack of clarity around how annotating the register would protect members of the public.
- Annotating the register would reflect a fitness for purpose decision taken by an employer rather than a decision taken against our standards.
- The arrangements would only be applicable in England and Wales compared to HPC's UK-wide remit.
- The Council does not currently have powers to remove an annotation.
- An occupational therapist carrying out the AMHP role would need to remain registered and therefore appropriate fitness to practise action could be taken in the normal way, should concerns be raised.

### **Applicability to Wales**

At its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2006, the Committee also sought clarification on the applicability of the proposals to Wales.

The proposals will apply to Wales. The approval arrangements will mean that someone approved by a local authority in Wales could work on the behalf of another authority in Wales during their approval period. However, if they wished to work in England they would need to be approved by an English local authority. This also applies to AMHPs approved in England, who wish to work in Wales.

### **Annotation**

The Executive wrote to the Department of Health outlining the Committee's comments. The Executive has subsequently been advised that, following consideration of the Committee's comments, together with those of the Nursing Midwifery Council and General Social Care Council, annotation of the regulators' registers was no longer proposed.

### **AMHP Education and Training**

AMHP education and training is to be approved by the General Social Care Council (GSCC).

**Next steps**

The legislation necessary to create the AMHP role, in addition to other changes to Mental Health legislation, is currently going through parliament.