

Major Change Visitors' Report

Name of education provider	The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
Validating body / awarding body	University of Glamorgan
Programme Name	MA Music Therapy
Mode of delivery	Full Time and Part Time
Relevant part of HPC Register	Arts Therapy
Relevant modality	Music Therapy
Date of submission to HPC	8 August 2008

Contents

Executive summary	2
Introduction	3
Major Change Submission details	3
Sources of evidence.....	4
Recommended Outcome	4

Executive summary

The Health Professions Council (HPC) approves educational programmes in the UK which health professionals must complete before they can apply to be registered with us. The HPC approve programmes on an open-ended basis which requires that, when significant changes occur to a programme, we receive notification and are able to ensure all our standards continue to be met. The HPC is a health regulator and our main aim is to protect the public. The HPC currently regulates 13 professions. All of these professions have at least one professional title which is protected by law. This means that anyone using the title 'Music Therapist' or 'Arts Therapist' must be registered with us. The HPC keeps a register of health professionals who meet our standards for their training, professional skills, behaviour and health.

The major change visitors' report which follows outlines the recommended outcome made by the visitors on the ongoing approval of the programme. The visitors' recommended outcome is that there is insufficient evidence to show how the standards of education and training are being met and it was not certain that those who complete the programme will continue to demonstrate an ability to meet the standards of proficiency. An approval visit is required to collect more evidence and if necessary place conditions on the ongoing approval of the programme.

Introduction

The education provider contacted the HPC to notify of changes occurring to the programme that may have an impact on the standards of education and training and the standards of proficiency. The nature of the change required additional scrutiny by visitors to determine whether the programme continued to meet the standards of education and training and that those who complete the programme demonstrated a continued ability to meet the standards of proficiency.

Major change submission details

Name and profession of HPC visitors	Mr Donald Wetherick (Music Therapist) Dr Janek Dubowski (Art Therapist)
HPC executive officer	Mr Osama Ammar

Summary of change

SET 3 Programme management and resource standards

The programme has suspended recruitment for an academic year. There have been a number of staff changes to the programme also.

Sources of evidence

To show how the programme continued to meet the standards of education and training and that those who complete the programme continue to demonstrate an ability to meet the standards of proficiency the education provider submitted the following documentation:

Curriculum vitae for relevant staff

An indication of the current student numbers

Recommended outcome

To recommend a programme for ongoing approval, the visitors must be assured that the programme meets all of the standards of education and training (SETs) and that those who complete the programme have demonstrated an ability to meet our standards of proficiency (SOPs) for their part of the Register.

The visitors agreed to recommend to the Education and Training Committee that there is insufficient evidence to determine if or how the programme continues to meet the following standards of education and training:

3.1 The programme must have a secure place in the education providers' business plan.

Reason: The suspension of recruitment is a major and unexpected event in the life of the programme, and the visitors need to be reassured of the education provider's commitment to the programme in the future.

3.2 The programme must be managed effectively.

Reason: The visitors wish to be sure that the nominated programme leader's commitments as Deputy Principal will not prevent her from fulfilling the responsibilities of Programme Leader.

3.2 The programme must be managed effectively.

Reason: The visitors are aware that complaints have recently been made by students regarding the programme from the major change notification form submitted to the HPC. The visitors recommend that a visit is the most appropriate method to sensitively and robustly assess how the education provider's complaints procedures are effective and have ensured that the HPC standards of education and training continue to be met.

3.4 There must be an adequate number of appropriately qualified and experienced staff in place to deliver an effective programme.

Reason: The visitors understand that the newly appointed tutor for Experiential Group Training may have previously held other roles in the programme which could conflict with the confidentiality and independence required as a group facilitator. They would like clarification of this point.

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

Reason: The visitors further wish to clarify the level of the experience and training available to support group facilitation to ensure that this element of the programme's delivery is adequately resourced.

6.3 All assessments must provide a rigorous and effective process by which compliance with external reference frameworks can be measured.

Reason: The visitors wish to explore how recent staff changes may affect the rigour and effectiveness of the education provider's assessment standards and process.

6.5 There must be effective mechanisms in place to assure appropriate standards in the assessment.

Reason: The visitors wish to explore how recent staff changes may affect the education provider's assessment standards and process.

Mr Donald Wetherick
Dr Janek Dubowski