

Education and Training Committee – 25 March 2009

The operational implementation of the new standards of education and training

Executive summary and recommendations

This paper relates to the review of the standards of education and training and their guidance. It seeks confirmation of how the revised standards will be implemented across currently approved programmes.

Introduction

The revised standards of education and training are due to become effective from September 2009. The revised standards are likely to include a number of changes to standards as well as a number of new standards.

When the standards of proficiency were reviewed in 2007 (2008 for ODPs), it was decided that as the changes were minor the annual monitoring process would be used to assess the changes. Whilst the revisions to the existing standards of education and training are relatively minor, there are also a number of new standards. These relate to an education provider's monitoring and evaluation systems (3.3), complaints process (3.13), professional conduct process (3.16) and use of our standards of conduct, performance and ethics (4.5). For a lot of currently approved programmes the inclusion of these new standards is unlikely to create any additional work, as they already have established systems and processes to meet these standards. However, from the consultation responses and ad-hoc correspondence from education providers, it is apparent that there are some education providers who will need to create or adapt systems and processes to meet these new standards.

Appendix 1 details how our existing processes could be used to ensure that currently approved programmes meet the revised and new standards. The Committee is asked to consider the merits of each process as well as any alternatives. In reaching their final decision, the Committee is advised to take into account the findings from the continuing fitness to practise professional liaison group, the student fitness to practise discussion meeting and the health and character review.

Any decisions made on the roll out of the revised standards of education and training will only become effective once the revised standards and guidance have been approved by Council. Council is due to consider a paper at their meeting on 26 March 2009.

Decision

The Committee is asked to agree the process and timescales for assessing how currently approved programmes continue to meet the revised standards of education and training.

Background information

1. Standards of education and training and guidance consultation – Education and Training Committee 10 June 2008
2. Review of the standards of education and training and guidance – Education and Training Committee 25 March 2009
3. Continuing fitness to practise professional liaison group – Council, 1 October 2008
4. Student fitness to practise discussion meeting report and ways forward – Education and Training Committee 4 December 2007
5. Health and character review – Education and Training Committee 26 March 2008

Resource implications

1. There is a significant resource implication if the approval process option is chosen. The draft work plan 2009-2010 does not accommodate this.
2. There is a small resource implication if the annual monitoring process option is chosen. The draft work plan 2009-2010 could accommodate this.
3. There is a resource implication if the major change process option is chosen. The draft work plan 2009-2010 could accommodate this and the work plan for 2010-2011 could be designed to accommodate it.

Financial implications

1. There is a potential financial implication if the approval process option is chosen. There is some contingency in 2009-10 budget to cover some costs and the 2010-11 budget could be planned accordingly.
2. There is no financial implication if the annual monitoring process option is chosen.
3. There is a potential financial implication if the major change process option is chosen. There is some contingency in 2009-10 budget to cover some costs and the 2010-11 budget could be planned accordingly.

Appendix

1. Process matrix

Date of paper

13 March 2009

Appendix 1

Process	Detail	Implications
Approval process	Require all approved programmes to undertake an approval visit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource intensive. • Over burdensome. • Immediate (within one academic year) confirmation that all programmes meet our new standards.
Annual monitoring process	Require all approved programmes to change their programmes during the 2009-10 academic year and assess their changes via their next annual monitoring audit submission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some additional burden for education providers. • Some changes to standard annual monitoring process would need to be made to ensure evidence captured. • No additional resources. • Approach used to assess the changes to the standards of proficiency in 2007 & 2008. • Considerable delay in our assessment as audits will not be received until the 2010-11 and 2011 – 12 academic years. In effect there will be a three year period when we will not have confirmation that all programmes meet our new standards.
Major change process	Require all approved programmes to submit a major change detailing how they have made changes to take account of the revised and/or new standards. This major change could be assessed towards the end of the 2009-10 academic year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An additional burden for education providers. • Additional resources (visitors' assessment fees). • Immediate (within one academic year) confirmation that all programmes meet our new standards.