

Education and Training Committee, 6 June 2013

Guidance for disabled people wanting to become health and care professionals – update

Executive summary and recommendations

### **Introduction**

At its meeting on 7 March 2013, the Committee agreed plans for reviewing and revising guidance for disabled people interested in training to become a health professional registered with us – ‘A disabled person’s guide to becoming a health professional’ (published in 2006).

This included commissioning research. The research will include focus groups / interviews with disabled students, as well as educators, admissions staff and staff in university disability services, in order to inform changes to the guidance.

The research brief and invitation for proposals was sent out immediately after the Committee’s meeting with a return deadline of 10 May 2013. The brief was sent out via the following channels.

- Council of Deans of Health.
- Joint University Council Social Work Education Committee (JUC SWEC).
- Higher Education Academy.
- A number of other personal contacts (some of whom distributed the brief via their contacts and networks).

At the last meeting, the Committee debated whether the proposed timetable for the research was too ambitious. It was agreed that the Executive should keep this under review but should try to complete the research by this timetable if possible. As a result of the Committee’s discussion, the proposed completion date of the research was moved out by one month (without affecting the overall proposed completion date). The research brief, however, said that the deadline would be ‘agreed with the appointed researcher(s) / research team based on what is considered to be feasible’.

We received 9 proposals for the research. At the time of writing this paper, final shortlisting had been completed. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

The timetable for the completion of this work (subject to agreement of the feasibility of the proposed timetable for the research) is attached.

**Decision**

This paper is to note; no decision is required.

**Background information**

Education and Training Committee, 7 March 2013. Guidance for disabled people wanting to become health and care professionals

<http://www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10003F11Enc08-guidancefordisabledpeoplewantingtobecomehealthandcareprofessionals.pdf>.

**Resource implications**

None as a result of this paper.

**Financial implications**

None as a result of this paper.

**Appendices**

None

**Date of paper**

24 May 2013

**Overall timetable (subject to confirmation of agreed completion date of the research)**

| <b>Action</b>   | <b>Timetable</b>   |
|---|--|
| Invitation for research proposals (9 weeks to deadline)   | From 7 March 2013  |
| Further preparatory work including desk research          | Completion June 2013   |
| Deadline for research proposals                           | 10 May 2013  |
| Research team appointed                                   | By 21 June 2013  |
| Deadline for final research report                        | 29 November 2013 (target date; subject to agreement of feasible deadline with research team)   |
| Finalise revisions to guidance                            | December 2013 to February 2014   |
| Discussion / approval of guidance for public consultation | March 2014 (Education and Training Committee and Council)<br><br>Or if later completion of research: June / July 2014 (Education and Training Committee and Council) |
| Public consultation (12 weeks)                            | April to July 2014; or July to September 2014  |
| Consultation analysis and revised guidance for approval   | September / October 2014<br><br>November / December 2014 (Education and Training Committee and Council); or March 2015 (dependent on volume of responses)            |
| Publication of revised guidance                           | From: October 2014 or January 2015 or April / May 2015   |