

Education and Training Committee, 6 June 2013

Royal College of Psychiatrists - recommendation

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

The Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCP) recently published a report as a result of a working group which looked at how 'parity of esteem' could be achieved between physical and mental health. The aim of the work was to look at ways in which physical and mental health could be valued equally by all stakeholders – including commissioners of services and policy makers.

The report 'Whole person care: From rhetoric to reality' made the following recommendation for the HCPC.

'The Health and Care Professions Council should consider including a child development and a mental health module as part of mandatory core training for social workers, not just as specialisms. This could be complemented by a greater focus in the children and families specialism on the relationship between physical and mental development.'

The standards of proficiency for social workers in England were published in 2012 and include the following standards:

- Understand in relation to social work practice...
 - human growth and development across the lifespan and the impact of key developmental stages and transitions
 - ...
 - the relevance of psychological, environmental, sociological and physiological perspectives to understand persona and social development and functioning. (Standard 13).

After publication of its report, the RCP wrote to the Chair of Council to highlight this recommendation. (We were not invited to provide any prior input.) In response, our approach to setting standards and approving education and training programmes was outlined, including that we do not prescribe the exact content or structure of modules.

This recommendation will be retained on file and could be considered when the standards of proficiency for social workers in England are next reviewed.

Decision

This paper is to note; no decision is required.

Background information

- The full RCP report is available here:

<http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/files/pdfversion/OP88xx.pdf>

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

None

Appendices

None

Date of paper

13 May 2013