

Approval process

The Department has now begun the visit schedule for the 2013-14 academic year. Since the last ETC meeting, 3 visits covering 5 programmes have taken place.

The Department has scheduled 69 visits (covering 163 programmes) to date in 2013-14, including one multi-professional visit. The majority of these visits are to social worker programmes (76%) and AMHP programmes (9%). Education providers have until December 2013 to request a visit before July 2014.

Annual monitoring process

The Department has completed the majority of the annual monitoring work for the 2012-13 academic year. The last submission deadline for 2012-13 is 30 September 2013, so it is anticipated that the October and December Education and Training Panels will formally close off annual monitoring for 2012-13. The scheduling process for the next academic year has now begun.

Major change process

Since our last report to Committee, the Department has received 28 new major change notifications, covering 42 programmes.

The total number of major change notifications received in the 2012-13 academic year was 138 (including those withdrawn later), covering 232 programmes. This figure is broadly comparable with last year's figure. The majority of these were for paramedic and practitioner psychologist programmes (14%), closely followed by biomedical science, physiotherapy and radiography programmes (12%).

A significant proportion (23%) of these notifications continue to be channelled into the approval and annual monitoring processes. The number of notifications that remain within the

major change process are broadly comparable with previous years.

Complaints process

The Department has received two new complaints since our last report to ETC. There are currently two outstanding complaints.

See appendix one for more information on the above operational processes.

Social workers (England)

The second year of our three year schedule of visits to social work programmes began this month. We are currently due to undertake 46 visits to 123 programmes in 2013-14.

The first year of our two year schedule of visits to AMHP programmes began this month. We are currently due to undertake 12 visits to 15 programmes in 2013-14. The approval criteria for AMHP programmes has now been circulated to all AMHP education programmes, AMHP visitors and visitors from other professions who are attending the first few visits in 2013-15 following Council's approval in July. A document explaining our approach to approval for AMHP programmes and a document mapping AMHP criteria to the standards of education and training guidance were also included.

Independent and supplementary prescribing programmes

Preparations are underway for the approval of independent prescribing programmes. This follows legislative changes on 12 August which allow appropriately trained chiropodists / podiatrists and physiotherapists to independently prescribe. The standards for prescribing have now been circulated to all approved supplementary prescribing programmes. A document explaining our approach to approval for prescribing programmes and a document mapping the new standards to the standards of education and training guidance were also included.

A high proportion of education providers who currently deliver supplementary prescribing programmes have indicated their intent to seek HCPC approval to deliver independent prescribing programmes. Assessment days are scheduled in November to review such programmes via documentary submission in the first instance. We are also scheduling full approval visits to programmes where an education provider is not currently approved to deliver supplementary prescribing.

Practitioner psychologist programmes – review of approval process from 2009 – 2012

The Department has reviewed the outcomes of approval visits to pre-registration practitioner psychologist programmes which were transferred from the British Psychological Society (BPS) to the HCPC on 1 July 2009 following the opening of the Register for practitioner psychologists. An analysis paper has been included as a separate item for discussion at this meeting.

Partners

Following approval of the use of lay visitors at June ETC, a role description has been produced and recruitment has begun this month. The Department will also undertake routine recruitment in the autumn across a number of professions.

Planning is also underway for refresher and new visitor training scheduled for October - November 2013 and February 2014.

Seminars

The first of two social work seminars and six service user and carer involvement seminars planned for 2013-14 take place later this month in London. The remaining seminars will take place from October - February 2014 at various venues across the UK. More information on the seminars can be found on the HCPC website at: <http://www.hcpc-uk.org/education/providers/seminars/>

A post about the service user and carer involvement seminars

will also be included in the HCPC blog:

<http://www.hcpc-uk.org/mediaandevents/blog/>

Publications

The Department is currently undertaking an analysis of activities in the 2012-2013 academic year for inclusion in the Education Annual Report 2013. The report will include a review of our first year of social work visits. Publication is anticipated in May 2014.

Liaison with stakeholders

The fourteenth issue of the Education Update will be distributed to education providers, visitors and other education stakeholders on September 2013.

Members of the Department met with the following groups from June – September 2013:

- Department for Education - Initial Training of Educational Psychologists National Steering Group
- Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
- Academic Registrars Council meeting - Subjects Allied to Medicine group
- NHS Education for Scotland
- Podiatrists practising podiatric surgery stakeholder event
- Education inter-regulatory group
- Frontline
- Department for Education – Social Work Entry Team
The College of Social Work - Learning & Development Reference Group

Employees

There have been no employee changes in the Department since the last ETC meeting on 6 June and no further recruitment is planned for 2013-14. The total number of employees remains at 18.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Education management information statistics