

## Education and Training Committee Panel

**Programmes in respect of which approval/ongoing approval is recommended subject to conditions, where the education provider has made observations on the visitors' report**

<b>Programme name</b>	Frontline (ARK) and Tilda Goldberg Centre
<b>Education provider</b>	The Frontline Academy (PG Dip Social Work)
<b>Mode of delivery</b>	Full time
<b>Date of decision</b>	Thursday 27 March 2014

**Panel:** John Donaghy (Chair)      Mary Clark-Glass  
Elaine Brookes                      Joy Tweed

### Guidance for Panel Chairs

In determining whether to approve a programme, the Panel must reach its decision on the basis of the evidence put before it, in the form of the HCPC visitors' report and any observations on the report made by the education provider.

The visitors' report is only a recommendation and the Panel may depart from that recommendation where it is satisfied that it is appropriate to do so.

The Panel must reach its own decision and give reasons for that decision.

#### Decision:

1. That, in respect of this programme:

- i) the outcome recommended by the visitors (including the conditions set out in their report) be accepted, but subject to the variations and clarifications set out below;
- ii) those conditions (as varied below) must be met before the programme is approved; and
- iii) a further visit is required to make an appropriate assessment of the education provider's response to those conditions .

2. Any further visit is to be regarded as a continuation of this approval process and thus, as the education provider's first attempt to meet the conditions. Any

further visit should:

- i) take place 2-3 months after this decision;
- ii) include meetings with the education provider's programme team and senior team; and
- iii) focus on the SETs in respect of which the conditions have been set.

3. The conditions recommended by the visitors are to apply subject to the following variations and clarifications:

- i) in respect of the first condition on SET 2.1, whilst that condition is to apply, the Panel accepts the education provider's clarification that members of the programme team had attended the majority of assessment days and that they would be attending all similar days in future;
- ii) in respect of the third condition on SET 2.1, whilst that condition is to apply, the Panel accepts the education provider's clarification that information about the bursary available to applicants on the Frontline website was included in the evidence considered by the visitors. The condition relates to information over and above that provided in this evidence;
- iii) the condition on SET 3.3 is removed;
- iv) in respect of the first condition on SET 3.8, whilst that condition is to apply, the Panel accepts the education provider's clarification on the parity of access to the teaching resources of the programme. The Panel noted that that the focus of this condition is on physical resources rather than any teaching provided and that reference to the "education provider" in the second sentence of the reasoning should be a reference to the "University of Bedfordshire (UoB)";
- v) in respect of the condition on 3.16, whilst the condition is to apply, the Panel accepts the education provider's clarification that there is a professional suitability process currently in place and that it is used successfully on other HCPC approved programmes. The Panel noted that the focus of this condition was on the roles and responsibilities of staff in applying this process and how this would be done for this programme;
- vi) in respect of the condition on SET 4.2, whilst that condition is to apply, the Panel accepts the education provider's clarification on its stance on the experience required to work in the child and family sphere of social work. The Panel noted that the focus of the condition is on the students' experience of the contrasting placements and how this experience is assured by the education provider; and
- vii) in respect of the first condition on SET 5.11, first condition on SET 6.1, the condition on SET 6.4 and the condition on SET 6.6, whilst those conditions are to apply, the Panel accepts the words "based on these review

meetings" in the reasoning should be removed.

4. The Panel further directs that the education provider be given clarification as to the nature of the second condition on SET 4.8.

### **Reasons**

1. In reaching its decision in respect of this programme, the Panel has considered the visitors' report and the observations of the education provider and is satisfied that the conditions (as varied here) are necessary in order for the programme to meet the standards of education and training. In particular, the Panel is satisfied that:
  - i) the conditions outlined in the report are proportional based on the visitors' report and education provider observations and as such should be met before the programme is approved, subject to the variations and clarifications set out below; and
  - ii) due to the nature of the conditions articulated in the visitors' report a further visit is required to make an appropriate assessment of the education provider's response to the conditions;
2. In reaching its decision in respect of this programme, the Panel is satisfied that a further visit is required to appropriately assess any response from the education provider to the conditions. In particular the Panel is satisfied that:
  - i) to ensure that sufficient time is provided for the education provider to respond to the conditions, for a further visit to be arranged and for any further documentary evidence submitted by the education provider to be scrutinised, the Panel considers that the visit should take place 2-3 months after this decision;
  - ii) the nature of the conditions is such that further meetings with the programme team and the senior team would be the most effective means of scrutinising the education providers response to the conditions. There would be no need to meet students, practice placement providers or practice placement educators at any further visit; and
  - iii) the programme has demonstrated how it meets a number of SETs. As such any further visit will only need to consider evidence submitted by the education provider in respect of the SETs on which conditions have been set.
3. In reaching its decision in respect of this programme, the Panel has considered the visitors' report and the observations of the education provider and is satisfied that the conditions outlined here require variation or clarification. In particular, the Panel is satisfied that:

- i) in relation to the variation to the first condition on SET 2.1, the condition should remain and that this amendment was necessary to correct a factual inaccuracy;
  - ii) in relation to the variation to the third condition on SET 2.1, the condition should remain. However, the reasoning for this condition should be varied to include specific evidence referenced by the education provider's observations and demonstrate that the visitors had considered this evidence before setting this condition;
  - iii) in relation to the condition on SET 3.3, the observation provided by the education provider provided sufficient evidence to satisfy the condition and demonstrate that the programme meets this SET. Therefore the Panel were satisfied that this condition should be removed from the visitors' report;
  - iv) in relation to the variation to the first condition on SET 3.8, the condition should remain. The variation in terminology to 'University of Bedfordshire (UoB)' and focus on physical resources emphasises the purpose of the condition in requiring further evidence as to how the programme team will provide equality of access to physical resources for all students on the programme;
  - v) in relation to the variation to the condition on SET 3.16, the condition should remain. However, the reasoning for this condition should be varied to include specific reference to the need for the scope of roles and responsibilities in relation to the professional suitability process to be included in any evidence provided to meet the condition;
  - vi) in relation to the variation to the condition on SET 4.2, the condition should remain. The variation includes the stance of the education provider on this subject and will emphasise the purpose of the condition in seeking further evidence as to how the programme will ensure that students get the experience they require while undertaking the required practice placement elements of the programme; and
  - vii) in relation to the variations to the reason under SET 5.11, first condition on SET 6.1, condition on SET 6.4 and condition on SET 6.6 these conditions should remain. The variations were necessary to reflect the nature of the assessment of the practice placement elements of the programme;
4. In reaching its decision in respect of this programme, the Panel has considered the visitors' report and the observations of the education provider and is satisfied that the education provider requires clarification of the second condition on SET 4.8. The Executive should provide clarity about the nature of this SET to ensure the education provider is aware of the requirements of this condition.

Signed:  , Panel Chair