

Education and Training Committee, 19 November 2015

Developing a student survey for use in monitoring

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

Kingston and St George's (University of London) were commissioned earlier this year to undertake research looking at preparation for practice as part of the review of the standards of education and training. The report is currently being finalised and will be considered by the SETs PLG at a future meeting.

The Executive proposes extending this project, to ask the research team to draw on the findings of the study to develop and pilot the content of a student survey. The aim of this would be to benefit from the input of final year students direct into the monitoring process. This would have the potential benefit of achieving greater third party evidence, input and verification into the monitoring process.

The research would involve: appraisal of the SETS and monitoring process to identify where students might be able to provide useful input; an appraisal of other similar survey tools, their usefulness and extent of potential overlap; and interviews and/or focus groups with key stakeholders such as final year students and educators. The final report would include any conclusions about the feasibility of the survey.

The outcomes of the project would be reported back to the Committee for a final decision about whether and, how, such a survey might be administered as part of monitoring.

Decision

The Committee is invited to discuss and agree the attached brief.

Background information

- Monitoring process:
<http://www.hcpc-uk.org/education/processes/monitoring/>

Resource implications

- Working with the research team as necessary to deliver the research; future papers as may be required.

Financial implications

- We anticipate a budget of c.£25,000, paid from the 2015-16 and 2016-17 budgets.

Appendices

None

Date of paper

9 November 2015

RESEARCH BRIEF

Developing a student survey for use as part of the HCPC's arrangements for monitoring education and training programmes

1. Purpose and research aims

- 1.1 The purpose of this project is to develop and pilot a survey which could be used by the HCPC to gain the input of final year students. This intelligence would be used as part of the HCPC's approval and monitoring processes.
- 1.2 The aims of this work are as follows.
- To build on the outcomes of the 'preparation for practice' research to develop the content of a draft survey for final year students about their experiences on HCPC approved programmes related to the HCPC's standards of education and training (SETs).
 - In developing the survey, to learn and benefit from the experience of other organisations who administer similar surveys, to avoid duplication of effort wherever possible.
 - To pilot the draft survey, engaging with relevant stakeholders.
- 1.3 We expect the research to include the following as core components.
- An appraisal of the SETs and types of information typically gathered during the course of the monitoring processes, to identify where third party verification from students might be useful in assessing a programme's continued compliance with the SETs.
 - An appraisal of other similar surveys, their usefulness and relevance to the HCPC and the extent of possible overlap.
 - Interviews and/or focus groups with key stakeholders such as final year students and educators to feed into development of the survey.
 - A final report including a draft survey and any conclusions and recommendations.
- 1.4 A budget of c.£25,000 (inclusive of all costs, including VAT, if applicable) is available for this work.

- 1.5 This work to be delivered by Kingston and St George's University of London as an extension to the 'Preparation for practice' research.

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2. Further information

2.1 This section provides further information about the research.

Approval and monitoring

- 2.2 Our approval and monitoring processes are designed to gather and assess the information necessary to make an informed decision about whether a programme meets or continues to meet the HCPC's standards of education and training and should therefore be approved or continue to be approved.
- 2.3 The approval and monitoring processes largely rely upon scrutiny of information and documentation provided by the education provider. The only third party documentation we routinely receive across all types of education provider are external examiners reports. An education concerns process also exists whereby we can consider concerns from third parties that an approved programme is not meeting the standards of education and training. If considered sufficiently serious, this can trigger further consideration via annual monitoring or via a visit.
- 2.4 A survey of final year students, if feasible, has the potential benefit of achieving greater third party evidence, input and verification into the approval and monitoring processes. This might be particularly valuable in collecting information about arrangements for, and the quality of, practice placements. We anticipate that such a survey might be distributed via education providers for students to complete online. The survey should capture information that can be analysed at the education provider, programme, profession and cross-professional level. We anticipate asking a core set of questions each year, allowing analysis to take place over time.
- 2.5 Whilst the majority of programmes we approve are delivered or validated by a higher education institution, we also approve programmes delivered by other providers including employers and professional bodies. The research should take this context into account.
- 2.6 We would welcome conclusions by the research team about the feasibility of this approach and any recommendations about different approaches should they be indicated by the data collected – for example, whether the survey should be less frequent than the normal two year monitoring cycle or whether its usefulness might be limited to certain types of provider.

Preparation for practice

- 2.7 We expect that development of the survey content will be informed by the outcomes of the research project 'Preparation for practice: The role of the HCPC's standards of education and training in ensuring that newly qualified professionals are fit to practise'.

Other surveys

- 2.8 This project should consider other similar surveys already in existence with the purpose of learning from them to develop the survey content and to avoid duplicating findings available elsewhere. The following gives two examples, but there may be other surveys that it would be useful to consider (for example, any used by UK education commissioning bodies as part of quality assurance arrangements). Both surveys are different in scope from that which might be useful for the HCPC.
- 2.9 The General Medical Council (GMC), via Local Education and Training Boards (LETB) and Deaneries, conducts an annual survey of doctors in training, gathering data about their views of the quality of their training experience. The GMC then publishes a report on its findings, reporting specific feedback to the relevant Deanery or LETB to action appropriately with education providers.¹
- 2.10 A National student survey takes place every year, funded by UK higher education funding bodies. It collects data at the programme level in a range of areas including student satisfaction in areas such as teaching, assessment and academic support; destinations after graduation; employment destinations; and other information such as typical student accommodation costs. For relevant programmes, it includes collection of data about satisfaction with NHS based work placements, asking a number of questions including about preparation for placements; suitability of placements; and supervision on placement. The survey is of final year undergraduate students.²

Out of scope

- 2.11 This research is about developing the content of a survey of final year students for the purposes of informing a judgement about whether programmes continue to meet the HCPC's standards of education and training. The means of administering that survey (e.g. the IT tool used to collect data) is outside of scope.

¹ <http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/surveys.asp>

² <http://www.thestudentsurvey.com/>

3. Next steps and anticipated timescale

- 3.1 The research team should produce a short outline of how they propose to carry out the additional work, including an outline timescale with key milestones; arrangements for research governance, including the involvement of relevant stakeholders; and a breakdown of costs.
- 3.2 The deadline for completion of this work will be agreed with the research team.

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