

Education and Training Committee, 10 September 2015

Presentation by Health Education England on paramedic education and training project

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

At its meeting on 5 June 2015, the Committee considered a paper on the threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register for paramedics as set out in the first of the standards of education and training (SET 1).

Health Education England (HEE) have been undertaking a project to reform how paramedics are educated. This has included proposals to only commission degree level education and training. The outcomes of this work directly affect England, but there has been participation from stakeholders in all four countries. Michael Guthrie, Director of Policy and Standards, has been represented on the project steering group and has met with members of the HEE team.

At the time of writing, Health Education England were due to present to the Committee at this meeting on the outcomes of their project.

A short paper is appended. This reproduces content from previous papers about the role of SET 1. Appendix 1 gives an up-to-date picture of the current profile of approved paramedic education and training programmes.

Decision

The Committee is invited to discuss the HEE presentation. No specific policy decision is required at this stage.

Background information

Education and Training Committee, 4 June 2015. Threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register.

<http://www.hcpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10004BCAEnc02-ThresholdlevelforentrytotheRegisterforparamedics.pdf>

Resource implications

None as a result of this paper.

Financial implications

None as a result of this paper.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Profile of pre-registration paramedic programmes.

Date of paper

1 September 2015

Threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register for paramedics

1. About SET 1

- 1.1 SET 1 provides the threshold levels of qualification 'normally' expected to meet the remainder of the standards of education and training, and thus the standards of proficiency. SET 1 has to be set at no more than the level necessary for someone to meet all the standards of proficiency (which are, in turn, the threshold standards for safe and effective practice).
- 1.2 The standard includes the phrase 'normally' as the HCPC's legislation is based on the outcomes set out in the standards of proficiency. The Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001 ('the Order') makes no provision for the HCPC to specify the academic award required for entry to the Register, but provides for it to approve, on an 'outcome' basis, qualifications which meet the standards it has set for entry to the Register. In summary the Order provides the following.
 - Article 5(2)(a) requires the Council to set the standards of proficiency necessary for safe and effective practice.
 - Article 12(1)(a) provides that an approved qualification must be the one which meets the requisite standards of proficiency.
 - Article 15(1)(a) requires the Council to establish the standards of education and training at a level which is necessary to achieve the standards of proficiency.
- 1.3 As we have no legislative powers to allow us to specify that those standards can only be met by a particular academic award, legal advice is that it would be unlawful for us to refuse to approve a programme which delivered the standards of proficiency and met the remaining standards of education and training solely on the basis that it did not lead to the award of a qualification specified in SET 1.
- 1.4 As SET 1 sets out a threshold, programmes may be delivered at academic awards / levels above. There are a number of professions where at least some provision is delivered above the threshold.
- 1.5 The threshold level for paramedics in SET 1 is 'Equivalent to Certificate of Higher Education' (level 4 on the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ); level 7 on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)). This has remained unchanged since the standards of education and training were first developed.
- 1.6 The existing standard is shown overleaf.

Threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register (SET 1)

1. 1 The Council normally expects that the threshold entry routes to the Register will be the following:

Bachelor degree with honours for:

- biomedical scientists (with the Certificate of Competence awarded by the Institute of Biomedical Science, or equivalent);
- chiropodists / podiatrists;
- dietitians;
- occupational therapists;
- orthoptists;
- physiotherapists;
- prosthetists / orthotists;
- radiographers;
- social workers in England; and
- speech and language therapists.

Masters degree for arts therapists.

Masters degree for clinical scientists (with the Certificate of Attainment awarded by the Association of Clinical Scientists, or equivalent).

Foundation degree for hearing aid dispensers.

Diploma of Higher Education for operating department practitioners.

Equivalent to Certificate of Higher Education for paramedics.

Professional doctorate for clinical psychologists.

Abridged from previous papers considered by the Committee

Professional doctorate for counselling psychologists, or equivalent.

Professional doctorate for educational psychologists, or equivalent.

Masters degree for forensic psychologists (with the award of the British Psychological Society qualification in forensic psychology, or equivalent).

Masters degree for health psychologists (with the award of the British Psychological Society qualification in health psychology, or equivalent).

Masters degree for occupational psychologists (with the award of the British Psychological Society qualification in occupational psychology, or equivalent).

Masters degree for sport and exercise psychologists (with the award of the British Psychological Society qualification in sport and exercise psychology, or equivalent).

Appendix 1 - Profile of open pre-registration paramedic programmes

Figures correct as of 29 July 2015

Includes programmes which are open but which have closed to new intakes.

Table 1: All approved programmes by type of award

Type of award	Number of programmes	
BSc	21	36%
Foundation degree	18	31%
Diploma of Higher Education	11	19%
Higher National Diploma	1	2%
Equivalent to Certificate of Higher Education	7	12%
Total	58	

Table 2: All approved programmes by level of award

Level of award	Number of programmes	
Level 6/9/10	21	36%
Level 5/8	30	52%
Level 4/7	7	12%

Note to table

- Levels are from the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications and then after '/' the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework.
- Level 4/7 includes Certificates of Higher Education; Level 5/8 Diplomas of Higher Education and Foundation degrees; level 6/9/10 Bachelor's degrees.

Table 3: All approved programmes by type of education provider

Type of provider	Number of programmes	
Higher Education Institution (incl joint provision)	50	86%
Other provider (ambulance service trust, private providers)	8	14%

Table 4: Approved paramedic programmes by type of award, by country

Type of award	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	UK*
BSc	21 (42%)				
Foundation degree	17 (34%)				1 (50%)
Diploma of Higher Education / HND	8 (16%)	1 (100%)	2 (50%)		1 (50%)
Equivalent of Certificate of Higher Education	4 (8%)		2 (50%)	1 (100%)	
Total	50	1	4	1	2

*Open University provision

Table 5: Summary of proposed new provision (includes programmes visited but not yet approved)

Type of award	Number of programmes
BSc	6
Foundation degree	1
Diploma of Higher Education	8
Equivalent of Certificate of Higher Education	4
	19