

Education and Training Committee

Minutes of the 84rd meeting of the Education and Training Committee held as follows:

Date: Thursday 22 November 2018

Time: 10:30 am

Venue: Room K, Health and Care Professions Council, Park House,
184 Kennington Park Road, London SE11 4BU

Members: Maureen Drake
Luke Jenkinson
Penny Joyce
Sonya Lam
Stephen Wordsworth (Chair)

In attendance:

Claire Amor, Secretary to the Committee
John Barwick, Executive Director of Regulation
Olivia Bird, Policy Officer
Brendon Edmonds, Head of Education
Jamie Hunt, Education Manager
Richard Houghton, Head of Registrations

Public Agenda

Item 1 - Chairs welcome and introduction

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed the Committee and Executive to the meeting.

Item 2 - Apologies for absence

- 2.1 No apologies were received.

Item 3 - Approval of agenda

- 3.1 The Committee approved the agenda.

Item 4 - Declaration of members' interests

- 4.1 Members had no interests to declare.

Item 5 - Minutes of the meeting of 6 September 2018 (ETC 27/18)

- 5.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the 83rd meeting of the Education and Training Committee.

Item 6 - Policy statement on review of the threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register (ETC 28/18)

- 6.1 The Committee received a paper from the Executive.
- 6.2 The Committee noted that following the amendment of the SET 1 threshold level for paramedics, the Executive have developed a policy statement, which provides guidance on when the HCPC will consider amending the threshold level for the professions it regulates.
- 6.3 The Committee agreed that paragraph 3.2 relating to professions developing over time, should be incorporated into the principles for considering change.
- 6.4 The Committee agreed to recommend the statement to Council for approval, subject to the incorporation of its agreed amendments.

Item 7 - Threshold level of qualifications for paramedics: transition update (ETC 29/18)

- 7.1 The Committee received a paper from the Head of Education.
- 7.2 The Committee noted that the Education Department has been working with education providers to manage the transition to the revised SET1 for paramedics. The Committee has previously agreed that all programmes must be delivered at degree level for all cohorts commencing from 1 September 2021.

- 7.3 The Committee noted that all education providers (bar one) currently delivering approved paramedic programmes below the revised SET 1 threshold have indicated their intention to close before 1 September 2021
- 7.4 The Committee noted that Medipro Limited has indicated their intent to deliver the programme after the end of the transition period. This is on the basis that the programme meets the requirements for learning at Level 6 on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF).
- 7.5 The Committee noted that whilst Level 6 on the RQF was broadly comparable to learning at levels 6/9/10 of the equivalent higher education qualification frameworks, this was not the same as being deemed equivalent for the purpose of meeting SET 1.
- 7.6 The Committee also understood that, through the approval process undertaken in 2017, the programme was deemed to meet SET 1 at the level required at the time, being a Certificate of Higher Education (or equivalent).
- 7.7 As such, the Committee agreed it was necessary to take further action to be satisfied the Medipro level 6 Paramedic Practice programme meets the revised threshold level following the completion of the transition period.
- 7.8 The Committee discussed the options set out by the Executive (paragraph 4.7) in the paper, and agreed that option 3 should be taken forward by the Executive, however this should also involve a directed visit to the programme. This would enable visitors to discuss matters directly with the education provider.
- 7.9 In accordance with Article 16 (7)(b) & 8(b) of the Health and Social Work Professions Order, the Committee therefore requires that the Executive schedule a directed visit to the programme, to be held in approximately six months from the date of the Committee meeting. The directed visit should be structured to enable the suitable visitors to undertake an assessment of how the programme meets the revised threshold level of qualification for paramedics.
- 7.10 The Committee requires that the education provider map the programme to the Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for Paramedics, and the Level 6 descriptor for degree programmes. This would be in addition to providing the full set of programme documentation, normally requested prior to a visit.
- 7.11 The directed visit should include discussions with relevant programme stakeholders, as the visitors deem necessary inform their understanding of how the programme meets SET 1.
- 7.12 Following the directed visit, the visitors must produce a report of their findings (having clarified any points as needed during and after visit), and detail the reasons for recommendations they make. The visitors may also highlight

other areas of the standards which may be impacted, based on their findings in relation to SET 1, or any other evidence which may suggest standards are no longer met at the threshold required.

- 7.13 The report will be submitted to the Committee for further consideration. At that time, the education provider will be provided with the opportunity to submit written observations to the Committee, regarding the contents of the report, and any other such matters they deem relevant to inform the Committee's discussions.
- 7.14 Following its consideration of the report, and any observations submitted, the Committee will decide whether the programme meets the revised threshold. In the event the Committee is not satisfied the standard is met, it will consider what further action it needs to take regarding the ongoing approval of the programme.
- 7.15 The Committee discussed the SET 1 policy statement in light of the situation of the programme in question. It was agreed that the policy statement (paragraph 2.3) should reflect that programmes may be delivered at a level equivalent to the normative threshold, if equivalence to SET 1 could be established.

Item 8 - Education provider survey recommendations update (ETC 30/18)

- 8.1 The Committee received a paper from the Head of Education
- 8.2 The Committee noted progress on the recommendations arising from the recent education provider survey.
- 8.3 The Committee discussed the working group formed to consider the first stage of the education quality assurance review. It was noted that draft terms of reference for the group have been developed and membership identified and secured. The first meeting of the group is anticipated in January 2019
- 8.4 The Committee requested that the draft terms of reference and membership of the group be circulated to members.
- 8.5 The Committee expressed concern that external perceptions of the working group membership may be impacted as the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists (CSP) is the only professional body involved. The Committee noted that the participant from CSP has been included in the group due to their extensive experience of education programme quality assurance and their standing among profession education leads.
- 8.6 The Committee noted that wider professional body input will be sought during consultation and that it would not be possible to include representatives from all HCPC regulated professions in the working group due to the resultant size. The five Council of Deans for Health members have portfolios with responsibility for the delivery of programmes for many professions.

- 8.7 The Committee agreed that the involvement of the CSP representative was appropriate and would add value, but requested that the terms of reference include a clear statement that members have been selected to ensure there is experience of education quality assurance from regulatory, education provider and quality assurance perspectives. The terms of reference should also ensure that the HCPC's requirement for multi-profession applicability remain at the forefront of the group's thinking.

Item 9 - Registration performance report (ETC 31/18)

- 9.1 The Committee received a paper from the Head of Registration.
- 9.2 The Committee discussed the Department's performance against service standards for registrant and applicant contacts. It was noted that the service standards are aspirational and determined by the HCPC. Where these standards are not met, this is normally due to resource being reallocated to meet statutory process needs at busy times.
- 9.3 The Committee noted that investment into these service standards is taking place in the form of the registration transformation and improvement project, which includes enhancements to the registrant's experience of registration process interfaces.
- 9.4 The Committee discussed reporting on registration appeals. It was noted that the registration appeals process is still relatively new for the Department and that views on normal levels of successful appeals are still developing. However reporting on the rates of successful appeals, and commentary on this rate will be included in ongoing reporting to the Committee.
- 9.5 The Committee agreed that the level of detail provided in the report was appropriate given the bi-annual frequency of the report.

Item 10 – Any other business

- 10.1 The Committee noted that the Stephen Wordsworth had been appointed to the Teaching Excellence Framework Panel.
- 10.2 The Committee discussed the recent case of a fraudulent registration of a Doctor at the GMC. The Committee agreed to receive a paper from the Executive on the HCPC's registration validation checks and the risk of a similar occurrence.

Item 11 – Date and time of next meeting

- 11.1 10.30am – 6 March 2019 at Park House, SE11 4BU

Chair Stephen Wordsworth

Date 06.03.2019