

## Education and Training Committee

**Minutes of the 93<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Education and Training Committee held as follows:**

**Date:** Thursday 11 June 2020

**Time:** 10.30 am

**Venue:** By teleconference

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

**In attendance:**

Claire Amor, Secretary to the Committee  
Matthew Clayton, Senior Policy Officer  
Brendon Edmonds, Head of Education  
Jamie Hunt, Education Manager  
Charlotte Rogers, Policy Manager  
Katherine Timms, Head of Policy and Standards

## Public Agenda

### **Item 1 - Chairs welcome and introduction**

1.1 The Chair welcomed members and the Executive to the meeting.

### **Item 2 - Apologies for absence**

2.1 There were no apologies for absence.

### **Item 3 - Approval of agenda**

3.1 The Committee approved the agenda.

### **Item 4 - Declaration of members' interests**

4.1 No public interests were declared.

### **Item 5 - Public minutes of the Education and Training Committee meeting of 23 April 2020 (ETC 21/20)**

5.1 The Committee approved the public minutes of its meeting of 23 April 2020.

### Items for discussion/approval

### **Item 6 - Education quality assurance model and pilot proposals (ETC 22/20)**

6.1 The Committee received a paper from the Head of Education.

6.2 The Committee noted the following points:-

- the pilot proposals put forward in the paper reflected the development work carried out with stakeholders since the beginning of 2019;
- the pilot would be delivered in an incremental way, enabling feedback to be gathered and inform future stages;
- it was expected that the results of the pilot would be presented to the Committee in June 2021 to inform full implementation; and
- the Executive proposes pausing annual monitoring process for 2020-21 to enable the focusing of resources on the delivery of the pilot.

- 6.3 The Committee welcomed the proposal for launching a pilot for the new education quality assurance (QA) model.
- 6.4 The Committee discussed the proposed timeline for the pilot. While the Committee agreed the timeline for the pilot was right given the external context and pressures on stakeholders, the Committee expressed some concern at the timescale for full implementation following the pilot, given the exploration to get to pilot stage had been ongoing since January 2019. It was agreed that the Chair of the Committee and the Head of Education would discuss any scope for accelerating the timeline post pilot.
- 6.5 The Committee noted that the proposed new education QA model would have implications for the standards of education which required policy resource to review. It was agreed that the broader resource interdependencies required review.
- 6.6 The Committee agreed that the assessment measures needed to be defined before the pilot commenced to ensure they were consistent throughout the pilot duration.
- 6.7 The Committee asked if the proposed new model had been subject to legal scrutiny, a risk assessment and an equality diversity and inclusion (EDI) impact assessment. The Executive confirmed a legal review had been undertaken and that the HCPC's legislation relating to education provided the needed flexibility. During June-December 2020 the legal basis for institution-based approval would be explored. The Executive confirmed that a risk assessment and EDI impact assessment had not been undertaken to date. This would take place when the proposals move into a formal project.
- 6.8 The Committee noted that the Committee's own part in the new QA model required further exploration as part of the pilot. The Executive anticipated holding a workshop in the autumn of 2020 to progress this.
- 6.9 The Committee asked if the professional standards authority had been engaged regarding the HCPC's direction of travel for the new education QA model. The Executive advised it intended to engage with the PSA following the Committee's decision on launching the pilot.
- 6.10 The Committee agreed that the proposed education QA model pilot should go ahead as outlined in sections three and four of the paper.
- 6.11 The Committee agreed the pilot design methodology and timelines as outlined in section five, subject to the point outlined in paragraph 6.4.
- 6.12 The Committee discussed the proposal to pause the annual monitoring audit process for 2020-21 academic year to enable resource to be focused on the pilot. It was noted that the Executive considered that this would send a message to the sector that the HCPC was moving away from the current education quality assurance model.

- 6.13 The Committee asked if a risk assessment had been undertaken to inform the proposal to pause annual monitoring. It was noted that a risk assessment had not been undertaken. The Executive considered the risk was low given how few issues were picked up as part of annual monitoring.
- 6.14 The Committee agreed that it could not make a decision to pause annual monitoring without considering the results of an assessment of the regulatory risk of doing so. It was agreed that the Executive would produce this risk assessment and that the Committee would meet at a date to be determined in July 2020 to make an informed decision on the proposal to pause the annual monitoring audit process for 2020-21 academic year.

### **Item 7 - Update on timeline for public consultation on SET 1 for Operating Department Practitioners (ETC 23/20)**

- 7.1 The Committee received a paper from the Senior Policy Officer.
- 7.2 The Committee noted the following points:-
- in March 2020 the Committee considered proposals to consult on ODP SET1;
  - the Committee asked the Executive to explore the possibility of moving the consultation forward to Q3 of the 2020-2021 financial year;
  - the Executive had begun the initial stakeholder engagement work with education providers which had highlighted the importance of further engagement before a full consultation is launched, in particular in relation to the difference in ODP education provision in the four countries; and
  - the timeline for consultation would also need to be cognisant of the pressures on stakeholders as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic response, and the current standards of proficiency consultation being live.
- 7.3 Sonya Lam provided the Committee with a summary of the current provision of ODP education in Scotland and the opposition the HCPC was likely to face in implementing a change to degree level. It was also noted that the Scottish Government had not supported the regulation of ODPs. It was agreed that focused engagement on the case for change would be required with Scottish stakeholders.
- 7.4 The Committee noted that a stakeholder consultation plan had been produced. There had been no response to date from the only Welsh education provider. Kathryn Thirlaway advised that Higher Education Improvement Wales was retendering all its bursary programmes which would be occupying education providers.

## **Item 8 - Advance Practice update (ETC 24/20)**

- 8.1 The Policy Manager provided the Committee with an overview of the intended approach to developing the HCPC's regulatory approach to Advanced Practice (AP).
- 8.2 The Committee noted that:-
- following desk based research, external research would be commissioned to better understand the risk profile of AP practice;
  - this would lead to the development of proposals taking into account the wider context of regulatory reform and workforce demand;
  - an extensive engagement plan would run in parallel;
  - timescales for the work were ambitious with the aim to present proposals to Council for approval at the end of 2020. The Committee and Council would receive regular progress reports leading to the delivery; and
  - in developing an engagement plan the Executive was mindful of the pressures on stakeholders at this time. Engagement would be targeted and specific and include a diverse range of groups.
- 8.3 The Committee noted that a number of Council members had agreed to act as a reference group to meet on a bi-monthly basis. The internal project group included representatives across the regulatory departments to ensure joined up consideration of regulatory impacts of AP.
- 8.4 The Committee welcomed the momentum that had gathered behind exploring AP, noting there was evidently a depth of understanding of its importance among the Executive and Council.
- 8.5 The Committee discussed inter regulator collaboration on AP. It was noted that other regulators while interested in the outputs of the HCPC's work were unable to commit resources to joint working on this area currently.

## **Item 9 - Non-approval decision – The University College of Osteopathy – BSc (Hons) Integrated Nutrition and Dietetics, FT (Full time) (ETC 25/20)**

- 9.1 The Committee received a paper from the Education Manager.
- 9.2 The Committee noted that at its meeting on 24 March 2020, the Committee decided that they were 'minded to' not approve the programme. The education provider, the University College of Osteopathy (UCO) was invited to make any additional submissions it wished to in response to this decision. The UCO's submission was included in the paper.

- 9.3 The Committee considered UCO's submission. The Committee agreed that UCO had not provided any further evidence to satisfy the outstanding conditions which needed to be met before the programme could be approved.
- 9.4 The Committee agreed that the submission did not set out the UCO's plans to meet the conditions in future. For example, there were no plans outlined to engage with the London group of practice placement providers. No assurance had been given on the process the UCO's would follow to secure practice placements in years two and three of the programme. The HCPC did not require the specific details of which placements would be secured, but instead required assurance that a process was in place to secure suitable placements.
- 9.5 Due to the absence of assurance from UCO that it had met, or could meet in future, the outstanding conditions for approval, the Committee agreed that the current approval process for the programme had come to an end with the result that the programme was not approved.
- 9.6 The Committee noted that UCO had asked for the Committee's response to UCO's view that new education providers were unable to gain HCPC programme approval. The Committee disagreed with this view, noting that several new providers had achieved approval in the past year. The HCPC needed assurance that its threshold standards of education were met and this applied to both new and established education providers. The Committee agreed that the UCO had been unable to provide this assurance following a number of opportunities to do so. The Committee agreed that the Executive should provide data on new provider approvals when communicating the Committee's decision to UCO.

#### **Item 10 - HCPC Committee review (ETC 26/20)**

- 10.1 The Committee Chair provided the Committee with an overview of the Committee governance review being undertaken by the Senior Council Member in collaboration with the Committee Chairs. A questionnaire had been issued for all Committees to complete.
- 10.2 It was agreed that members would complete the survey and submit this to the Committee Secretary who would combine and anonymise comments. The Committee would then meet in July 2020 to agree its combined response based on the data collected.

#### **Item 11 - Any other business**

- 11.1 There was no further business.

#### **Item 12 - Date and time of next meeting**

- 12.1 10.30am – 10 September 2020

**Item 13 – Resolution**

The Committee is invited to adopt the following:

‘The Committee hereby resolves that the remainder of the meeting shall be held in private, because the matters being discussed relate to the following;

- (a) information relating to a registrant, former registrant or application for registration;
- (b) information relating to an employee or office holder, former employee or applicant for any post or office;
- (c) the terms of, or expenditure under, a tender or contract for the purchase or supply of goods or services or the acquisition or disposal of property;
- (d) negotiations or consultation concerning labour relations between the Council and its employees;
- (e) any issue relating to legal proceedings which are being contemplated or instituted by or against the Council;
- (f) action being taken to prevent or detect crime to prosecute offenders;
- (g) the source of information given to the Council in confidence; or
- (h) any other matter which, in the opinion of the Chair, is confidential or the public disclosure of which would prejudice the effective discharge of the Council’s functions.’

Item	Reason for Exclusion
14	A

**Item 14 - Private minutes of the Education and Training Committee meeting of 23 April 2020 (ETC 27/20)**

14.1 The Committee approved the private minutes of the Education and Training Committee of 23 April 2020.

**Signed** .....

**Date** .....