

***Standards of Education and Training review meeting, 22
November 2007: Stakeholder feedback***

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

The attached paper summarises the main issues from responses we received from education providers, practice placement providers, students and visitors.

Decision

This paper is for information.

Background information

None

Resource implications

N/A

Financial implications

N/A

Appendices

- 1) Education providers email
- 2) Education providers questionnaire
- 3) Visitors email
- 4) Visitors questionnaire

Date of paper

12 November 2007

Standards of Education and Training review meeting: Stakeholder feedback

Introduction

The Health Professions Order says that we must set our standards to protect the public, and that we must set standards which are necessary for safe and effective practice. This is why our standards are set at a 'threshold' level (the minimum standard that must be met before we can allow entry onto the register).

The Standards of Education and Training (SETs) were published in 2004. They are applicable to education providers and the programmes that they run for professions currently regulated and those which may be regulated in the future.

They have been used by education providers and visitors for 3 years to assess whether a graduate from an educational programme will meet the Standards of Proficiency.

A professional liaison group (PLG) has been set up to review the SETs and examine, discuss and agree to any alterations to the SETs or guidance that the group feel are required. To elicit the views of stakeholders who use, or are affected by, the SETs we sent out emails and questionnaires (see appendices) to targeted stakeholders. We asked the stakeholders to respond using the questionnaires that we provided them with (appendix 2 and 4).

We approached the course leaders of all the programmes we currently approve and requested that they passed the details on to their practice placement providers and relevant student bodies. We also requested responses from other educational organisations such as the Council of Deans and The Higher Education Academy. We also approached all of the visitors who assess the educational programmes against the SETs.

Feedback

We received 46 responses from the selected stakeholders and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them. Many stated that the SETs were clear, easy to interpret and suggested that no alterations were required to either the SETs or the guidance. Others felt it was necessary to reword some of the SETs and guidance as well as reordering the SETs so that they were more user-friendly.

The following feedback are the main themes highlighted by respondents. The suggested changes to the SETs and guidance are mapped out against the individual SET in document titled 'Issues to consider and suggested changes to the SETs'.

Main issues

The following is a list of the main issues that have been brought to our attention. This is not a definitive list and other issues may come to light during the discussions of the review group.

- The order of the SETs.
- Wording of specific SETs (additional and alterations).
- Adding new SETs, combining SETs or rewriting SETs to pull out the differences.
- More detailed guidance on how the standards are audited and clear indicators of when to fail a student.
- More detailed guidance regarding disability and reasonable adjustments.
- Criminal convictions checks prior to completion of a programme.
- The inclusion of 'where appropriate' in standard 2.2.5 with regard to AP(E)L.
- Staff/student ratios.
- Mandatory inter-professional learning.
- Practice placement mentoring
- Closer and more formal working agreements between education providers and practice placement providers.
- Limitation or guidance on the number of failed assessments allowed

Appendix 1

Dear Colleague

At its meeting on 31st May 2007, the Council agreed a work plan to review the standards of education and training.

In 2006 we consulted on guidance for the standards of education and training and found that some of the respondents felt there should be alterations made to the standards themselves.

The standards of education and training were published in 2004. They are applicable to education providers and the programmes that they run for professions currently regulated and those which may be regulated in the future.

Now the standards have been in place for three years we think that it's important that we review them to make sure that they are working. In particular, we want to make sure that the standards continue to be relevant and conform to public expectations of health professionals.

They are used by education providers and visitors to assess whether a graduate from an educational programme will meet the standards of proficiency.

We have set up a professional liaison group (PLG) and feel that it is essential that education providers, practice placement providers and student groups have an opportunity to provide input into the standards of education and training. To aid us in our endeavour of getting this feedback could you please forward this email to your practice placement providers and student representatives where possible.

The knowledge and experience you have in using the SETs will be extremely useful for the review the standards. To gather this some of this knowledge and experience I have attached a questionnaire which broadly covers the standards that will be reviewed and which **I would be grateful if you could complete, and if possible, respond by the 5th November**. You will also have the opportunity to respond to the formal consultation once the review has been conducted. The standards are available to download from:

<http://www.hpc-uk.org/publications/standards/index.asp?id=33>

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this group, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. I can be contacted by e-mail at sam.mars@hpc-uk.org or by telephone to 020 7840 9717.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Mars

Policy Officer

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Health Professions Council
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Appendix 2

SETs review questionnaire

Your details

Organisation type Type your organisation's name here

Profession Please select your profession

Your name Please type your name here

Your job title / position Please type your job title / position here

Your contact details We may need to contact you, to discuss part of your response, or to ask questions. We would therefore be grateful if you could give us your contact details, ie: phone number and email address

If you need to give explanatory notes about your organisation or individual situation (i.e.: student numbers, number of approved courses, year of study, or similar) please do so here:

Please type your response in here. This box will expand as you type into it.

The standards

Please comment on whether the standards and detailed standards are correct along with what should be removed or added. Please give reasons for your suggestions.

Standard 1: Level of qualification for entry to the Register.

Please type your response in here. This box will expand as you type into it.

Standard 2: Programme admissions.

Please type your response in here. This box will expand as you type into it.

Standard 3: Programme management and resource standards.

Please type your response in here. This box will expand as you type into it.

Standard 4: Curriculum standards.

Please type your response in here. This box will expand as you type into it.

Standard 5: Practice placement standards.

Please type your response in here. This box will expand as you type into it.

Standard 6: Assessment standards.

Please type your response in here. This box will expand as you type into it.

Your answers

If you would like to give information about how you put together the answers (e.g.: working group, consultation with members, discussion on relevant committee) you have given above, please do so here. This will be

very useful background information for the PLG when considering your response.

Please type your response in here. This box will expand as you type into it.

Appendix 3

Dear Colleague

At its meeting on 31st May 2007, the Council agreed a work plan to review the standards of education and training.

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Now the standards have been in place for three years we think that it's important that we review them to make sure that they are working. In particular, we want to make sure that the standards continue to be relevant and conform to public expectations of health professionals.

We have set up a professional liaison group (PLG) and feel that it is essential that visitors have an opportunity to provide input into the standards of education and training.

The knowledge and experience you have in using the SETs to assess educational courses will be extremely useful for the review the standards. To gather this some of this knowledge and experience I have attached a questionnaire which broadly covers the standards that will be reviewed and which **I would be grateful if you could complete, and if possible respond, by the 5th November**. You will also have the opportunity to respond to the formal consultation once the review has been conducted. The standards are available to download from: <http://www.hpc-uk.org/publications/standards/index.asp?id=33>

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this group, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. I can be contacted by e-mail to sam.mars@hpc-uk.org or by telephone on 020 7840 9717.

Yours sincerely,

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(e) sam.mars@hpc-uk.org

Appendix 4

SETs review questionnaire

Your details

Profession Please select your profession

Your name Please type your name here

Your contact details We may need to contact you, to discuss part of your response, or to ask questions. We would therefore be grateful if you could give us your contact details, ie: phone number and email address

If you need to give explanatory notes about yourself please do so here:

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