

**Health Professionals Council
Department of Education and Policy**

Visitors report

Name of education provider	University of Greenwich / University of Kent – Medway School of Pharmacy
Name and titles of programme(s)	Postgraduate Certificate in Supplementary Prescribing
Mode of delivery	Distance Learning
Date of event	10 th January 2006
Proposed date of approval to commence	1 May 2006
Name of HPC visitors attending (including member type and professional area)	Marcus Bailey (Paramedic) Dr. Jean Mooney (Podiatrist / Chiropodist)
HPC Executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Karen Scott Joanna Kasimir (observing)
Joint panel members in attendance (name and delegation):	

Scope of visit (*please tick*)

New programme	✓
Major change to existing programme	
Visit initiated through Annual Monitoring	

Part 1.

1.1 Confirmation of meetings held

	yes	no	n/a
Senior personnel of provider with responsibility for resources for the programme	✓		
Programme planning team	✓		
Placement provider and educator) telephone conference	✓		

1.2 Confirmation of facilities inspected

	yes	no
Library learning centre		✓
IT facilities		✓
Specialist teaching accommodation	✓	

1.3 Confirmation that particular requirements/specific instructions (if any) of the Education and Training Committee that have been explored e.g. specific aspects arising from annual monitoring reports.

This is a new programme that has not been previously approved by HPC

Proposed student cohort intake number please state	20 students in 2 intakes per year with a mix of students (Nurses [~10], pharmacists [~5], AHPs [~5])
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The following summarises the key outcomes of the approvals event and provides reasons for each decision.

CONDITIONS

SET 2.2.2 The admission procedures must apply selection and entry criteria, including: criminal convictions checks

Condition 1: The HEI admissions procedure must make explicit its procedure for ensuring that all applicants have been subject to a CRB (enhanced disclosure) check

Reason: The process for ensuring that all entrants to the programme have demonstrated that they have been subject to a CRB (enhanced disclosure) check was not presented in the documentation provided to the HPC. AHP-Registered students enrolling to the programme will come from a variety of employment backgrounds (such as NHS practice, private practice, and commercial clinical practice) and may not have undergone a recent CRB check as part of that employment requirement.

SET 2.2.3 The admission procedures must apply selection and entry criteria, including compliance with any health requirements

Condition 2: The HEI must ensure that all students comply with health requirements to practice, prior to entering their entry to the programme

Reason: This SET was neither covered nor explicitly asked for within the in the course documentation or student application form

SET 2.2.4 The admission procedures must apply selection and entry criteria, including appropriate academic and/or professional entry standards

Condition 3: The HEI must note throughout the documentation that the Health Professions Council (HPC) is the Statutory or Regulatory body for the Allied Health Professions that input to the programme.

Reason: The HEI has referred to the HPC as the Professional body, rather than the Statutory / Regulatory body throughout the course documentation.

SET 3.9 Where students participate as patients or clients in practical and clinical teaching, appropriate protocols must be used to obtain their consent.

Condition 4: The HEI must ensure that ensure written consent is obtained from students and recorded by the University in order to allow them to participate in practical scenarios within the programme.

Reason: Students undertake role-play as part of the teaching and learning programme

SET 4.1 The learning outcomes must ensure that those who successfully complete the programme meet the standards of proficiency for their part of the Register.

Condition 5: The HEI must note that the HPC does not indicate learning outcomes within its Standards of Education and Training, and thus the HEI must remove all references to HPC-related learning outcome within the course documentation

Reason: The HPC does not set learning outcomes as it is the statutory body, not a professional body

SET 5.13 The placement providers must have an equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory policy in relation to candidates and students, together with an indication of how this will be implemented and monitored.

Condition 6: The HEI must ensure that all placement providers have equal opportunity and anti-discriminatory policies in place, and describe the way in which it will ensure that these policies are identified and monitored throughout the period of student placement.

Reason: The course documentation does not delineate these processes

SET 6.3 All assessments must provide a rigorous and effective process by which compliance with external reference frameworks can be measured.

Condition 7: The HEI must ensure that the course documentation includes an explicit statement on the rigor and structure of the OSCE examination so assessment is consistent throughout student cohorts

Reason: The form of words used within the documentation offered at the approvals event is ambiguous, and implies that there is a potential for variance in the rigor of the OSCE assessment in relation to the individual performance of the student

SET 6.6 Professional aspects of practice must be integral to the assessment procedures in both the education setting and practice placement.

Condition 8: The HEI must ensure and document that the AHPs must be formally involved in the construction, delivery and assessment of AHP profession-specific elements within the course.

Reason: The course documentation and the discussion with the course team at the approvals event indicate that AHP involvement to the programme is incorporated in an informal rather than a formal manner

SET 6.7.5 for the appointment of at least one external examiner from the relevant part of the Register.

Condition 9: The HEI must ensure that at least one external examiner to the programme must be appointed from the relevant part of the HPC register

Reason: An external examiner from the relevant part of the HPC Register has not yet been appointed

Deadline for *Conditions* to be met: 6 February 2006

To be submitted to Approvals Committee on: 17 May 2006

Recommendations

Set 2.1 The admission procedures must give both the applicant and the education provider the information they require to make an informed choice about whether to make, or take up the offer of a place on a programme

Recommendation: It is strongly recommended that the HEI liaises with all NHS WDC sponsors / local NHS Trusts to achieve a standardised pre-entry selection process for potential students to the programme.

Reason: There is need to work with those authorities who fund the students to the programme, in order to achieve transparency and consistency in the support of all applications to the programme. The staff who were at the approvals event were unable to describe a consistent applications funding process that offers equal and robust support to all potential students including independent practitioners and self funded applicants.

SET 5.7 Students and practice placement educators must be fully prepared for placement

Recommendation: The Visitors recommend that the HEI should introduce measures to ensure that all placements, as have been nominated in the student's application form, are audited for suitability, appropriateness and educational environment, so that the student is located to a placement that fulfils all quality measures before the student embarks on the programme.

Reason: In the initial cohorts of the programme, when nurses and pharmacists have attended the Medway School of Pharmacy Supplementary Prescribing programme, the student has selected his / her own placement. Invariably, the placement has been run at his / her own place of work. This ethos may not be sustainable when all eligible and suitable staff at that placement location has been trained as supplementary prescribers. Medical mentorship at those placement locations may not be readily accessible to those students who do not work at that placement location

SET 5.8.3 undertake appropriate practice placement educator training.

Recommendation: The Visitors recommend that the HEI works with the WDC, the local NHS Trusts and Supplementary Prescribing leads within those Trusts to provide a programme of mentorship preparation for potential and agreed medical mentors

Reason: Currently, there is no formal programme to support medical mentorship. It is recognised that changes will occur in future within the location and personnel offering placements to students, and a programme of preparation for future / potential mentors will ensure that the standard of this vital element of the Supplementary prescribing programme is maintained at its current level.

Commendations

Commendations

1: The visitors commend the course team in their development of a programme is delivered in a manner that is both flexible in delivery and responsive to local needs.

2: The visitors commend the course team in their design and content of the programme, and their success and enthusiasm in the development of this programme of study.

The nature and quality of instruction and facilities meets the Standards of Education and Training.

We recommend to the Education and Training Committee of the HPC that they approve this programme (subject to any conditions being met).

Visitors' signatures:

Date: 07/02/06



Dr. Jean Mooney



Marcus Bailey

ALL CONDITIONS MET - PROGRAMME APPROVED