

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	University of Wolverhampton
Programme name	Advanced University Diploma in Mental Health Practice for Approved Mental Health Professionals
Mode of delivery	Part time
Type of programme	Approved mental health professional
Date of visit	12 – 13 January 2016

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Executive summary

The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) approve educational programmes in the UK which health and care professionals must complete before they can apply to be registered with us. We are a statutory regulator and our main aim is to protect the public. We currently regulate 16 professions. All of these professions have at least one professional title which is protected by law. This means that anyone using a protected title must be registered with us. The HCPC keep a register of health and care professionals who meet our standards for their training, professional skills, behaviour and health.

As well as approving educational programmes for people who want to join the Register or have an annotation on their Registration record, the HCPC also approve a small number of programmes which are not linked to HCPC Registration. These programmes are for the profession of approved mental health practitioners (AMHPs) (for social workers, mental health and learning disabilities nurses, occupational therapists and practitioner psychologists).

The HCPC criteria for approving AMHP programmes set out the systems and processes an education provider is expected to have in place to deliver an AMHP programme, as well as the competencies professionals must achieve on completing the programme.

The visitors' report which follows outlines the recommended outcome made by the visitors on the approval of the programme. This recommended outcome was accepted by the Education and Training Committee (Committee) on 20 May 2016. At the Committee meeting, the programme was approved. This means that the education provider has met the condition(s) outlined in this report and that the programme meets our criteria for approving AMHP programmes and professionals who complete it will be able to achieve the criteria for approved mental health professionals. The programme is now granted open ended approval, subject to satisfactory monitoring.

Introduction

The HCPC visited the programme at the education provider as it was a new programme which was seeking HCPC approval for the first time. This visit assessed the programme against the criteria for approving AMHP programmes and professionals who complete it will be able to achieve the criteria for approved mental health professionals.

This visit was an HCPC only visit. The education provider did not validate or review the programme at the visit. The education provider supplied an independent chair and secretary for the visit. The visit also considered a different programme - Post Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Practice for Approved Mental Health Professionals. A separate visitor report exists for this programme.

Visit details

Name and role of HCPC visitors	Frances Ashworth (Lay visitor) Graham Noyce (Approved mental health professional) Christine Stogdon (Approved mental health professional)
HCPC executive officer (in attendance)	Abdur Razzaq
Proposed student numbers	15 per cohort, one cohort per year inclusive of student numbers on the Post Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Practice for Approved Mental Health Professionals
Proposed start date of programme approval	June 2016
Chair	Megan Thomas (University of Wolverhampton)
Secretary	Julie Heydon (University of Wolverhampton)

Sources of evidence

Prior to the visit the HCPC reviewed the documentation detailed below, sent by the education provider:

	Yes	No	N/A
Programme specification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Descriptions of the modules	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mapping document providing evidence of how the education provider has met the criteria for approving AMHP programmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Practice placement handbook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student handbook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum vitae for relevant staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
External examiners' reports from the last two years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The education provider previously ran an AMHP programme and provided HCPC with external examiners reports for that programme.

During the visit the HCPC saw the following groups or facilities:

	Yes	No	N/A
Senior managers of the education provider with responsibility for resources for the programme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programme team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Placements providers and educators / mentors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service users and carers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Learning resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specialist teaching accommodation (eg specialist laboratories and teaching rooms)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The education provider previously ran an AMHP programme and HCPC met with students who completed that programme. HCPC also met with students from the BA (Hons) Social Work programme and also students from the Best Interest Assessor programmes.

Recommended outcome

To recommend a programme for approval, the visitors must be assured that the programme meets all of the criteria for approving AMHP programmes and professionals who complete it will be able to achieve the criteria for approved mental health professionals

The visitors agreed to recommend to the Education and Training Committee that a number of conditions are set on the programme, all of which must be met before the programme can be approved.

The visitors agreed that 45 of the criterion have been met and that conditions should be set on the remaining five criteria.

Conditions are requirements that the education provider must meet before the programme can be approved. Conditions are set when certain criteria have not been met or there is insufficient evidence of the criterion being met.

The visitors did not make any recommendations for the programme.

Recommendations are observations on the programme or education provider which do not need to be met before the can be approved. Recommendations are made to encourage further enhancements to the programme, normally when it is felt that the particular criterion has been met at, or just above the threshold level.

Conditions

A.1 The admissions procedures must give both the applicant and the education provider the information they require to make an informed choice about whether to take up or make an offer of a place on a programme

Condition: The education provider must provide further evidence to demonstrate that the admissions materials are clear and provide applicants with the information they require to make an informed choice about whether to take up an offer of a place on the programme.

Reason: In the documentation submitted prior to the visit, the visitors noted information for applicants. This included information about the admissions criteria, DBS checks and other information about the programme. The visitors learnt that there is a similar programme available to potential applicants which is delivered and assessed at academic level 7. The visitors also learnt that this programme is open for self-funding students. During the programme team meeting the programme team stated that;

- the education provider will assess and decide whether applicants will be enrolled on to this programme or;
- students will be enrolled on to the Advanced University Certificate in Mental Health Practice for Approved Mental Health Professionals at academic level 6 and;
- the self-funding students will arrange their own placements through formal arrangements with relevant practice placement providers before they are enrolled on the programme.

However, the visitors could not find evidence about how this information regarding the different programmes and placement arrangements for self-funding students will be available to potential students. The visitors therefore require further evidence to demonstrate that the admissions materials are clear and provide applicants with the information they require to make an informed choice about whether to take up an offer of a place on the programme.

A.2 The admissions procedures must apply selection and entry criteria, including appropriate academic and professional entry standards

Condition: The education provider must provide further evidence about the selection process in place for this programme and how potential applicants are informed about it.

Reason: In the documentation provided prior to the visit, the visitors noted the entry criteria for the programme. From the documentation the visitors were unable to determine how students are selected to be recruited to the programme. During the programme team meeting, the visitors learnt that potential applicants apply through the university admissions process by completing an online form. Students will be assessed and selected against the entry criteria by the admissions team. Additionally, the programme leader assesses application forms and selects students to be recruited to the programme. However, the visitors could not see this or any other information about the selection process in the documentation provided. Consequently, the visitors were unable to determine how applicants are made aware of the entry requirements

and recruitment process for this programme. Therefore, the visitors require further evidence about the selection process in place for this programme and how potential applicants are informed about it.

C.1 The learning outcomes must ensure that those who successfully complete the programme meet the criteria in section 2

Condition: The programme team must provide further evidence to demonstrate how the learning outcomes for the programme allow students to meet the following criteria in section 2 approved mental health professional (AMHP):

- **3.1 Be able to evaluate critically local and national policy to inform AMHP practice.**
- **3.2 Be able to draw on, and evaluate critically, a range of research relevant to evidence-based AMHP practice.**

Reason: The documentation submitted prior to the visit included a mapping document indicating where in the curriculum criteria in section 2 AMHP will be delivered. The visitors noted that the learning outcomes (LO) in module 6so031 were mapped against the criteria mentioned above. LO one stated “Demonstrate analytical use of knowledge of the legal and policy context of mental health practice” and LO two stated “Demonstrate analytical use of knowledge of evidence -based practice”. From this information the visitors were unable to determine how the curriculum ensures students will be able to ‘evaluate critically’ to be able to meet the above criteria. During the programme team meeting, the visitors learnt that the programme team do teach students to evaluate critically during the programme. However, the visitors did not see evidence to determine that, on successful completion of the programme, students are able to meet the above criteria. Therefore, the visitors need further evidence to be able to decide whether this standard is met or otherwise.

E.1 The assessment strategy and design must ensure that the student who successfully completes the programme has met the competencies set out in section 2 of the criteria

Condition: The education provider must provide evidence that demonstrates that the assessment strategy and design ensures that those who successfully complete the programme meet the following criteria in section 2 approved mental health professional (AMHP):

- **3.1 Be able to evaluate critically local and national policy to inform AMHP practice.**
- **3.2 Be able to draw on, and evaluate critically, a range of research relevant to evidence-based AMHP practice.**

Reason: The documentation submitted prior to the visit included mapping document indicating where in the curriculum criteria in section 2 AMHP will be delivered and assessed. The visitors noted that the learning outcomes (LO) in module 6so031 were mapped against the criteria mentioned above. LO one stated “Demonstrate analytical use of knowledge of the legal and policy context of mental health practice” and LO two

stated “Demonstrate analytical use of knowledge of evidence -based practice”. From this information the visitors were unable to determine how the curriculum ensures students will be able to ‘evaluate critically’ to be able to meet the above criteria. During the programme team meeting, the visitors learnt that the programme team do teach and assess students on how to evaluate critically during the programme. However, the visitors did not see evidence to determine students after completing the programme meet the above criteria. Therefore, the visitors need further evidence to be able to decide whether this standard is met or otherwise

E.4 Assessment methods must be employed that measure the learning outcomes

Condition: The education provider must provide further evidence about the assessment methods that measure the learning outcomes.

Reason: In the documentation provided prior to the visit, the visitors noted the assessment methods for the learning outcomes delivered by this programme. However, as stated in the conditions under criteria C1 and E1 the visitors could not determine how the two criteria of section 2 for approved mental health professionals will be delivered and assessed. Therefore, the visitors require further evidence to determine how the assessment methods employed for this programme measure the learning outcomes.

Francis Ashworth
Graham Noyce
Christine Stogdon