

Council, 6 December 2011

## Education and Training Committee's Standing Orders

### Executive summary and recommendations

#### **Introduction**

On 17 November 2011, the Education and Training Committee considered proposals from the Executive for changes to the processes used to ensure that the Register of approved programmes is factually accurate. The aim of the proposed changes is to ensure that processes followed are as efficient and consistent as possible while:

- being consistent with the legal responsibilities of the Committee under the Health Professions Order 2001; and
- allowing the Committee to focus on strategic and policy matters.

One of the proposed changes relates to the handling of cases where a programme has no students or is no longer admitting students. Previous legal advice has been that in such cases there is a risk that an education provider may re-establish a training programme leading to eligibility and so ongoing approval should be withdrawn.

To date, such cases have been handled by the Education and Training Committee. However, the proposal is that in future such cases are handled by the Committee sitting as the Education and Training Panel. This would require decisions to continue to approve or withdraw approval for programmes being made at Panel meetings. The more frequent number of Panel meetings would ensure that decisions under these new arrangements would be made more swiftly, leading to a more accurate register of approved programmes. The change would also reduce the number of decisions required of the full Committee allowing it more time to consider policy and strategic matters.

Legal advice has been sought and received on the proposed change and way forward. To allow the Committee, sitting as the Education and Training Panel, to agree to withdraw approval from a programme with no students, or that is no longer admitting students, the Committee Standing Orders would need to be amended. Furthermore, the HPC Solicitor advised that, under Paragraph 13(1) of Schedule 1 to the Health Professions Order 2001, amendment of the Committee Standing Orders is a matter for Council.

On 17 November 2011, the Education and Training Committee agreed to recommend the amendment to the Committee Standing Orders, as set out below.

## **Decision**

The Council is asked to agree to amend paragraph 9(2) of the Committee Standing Orders to include the additional power set out in italics:

“For the purpose of Standing Order 8(1) “Panel” means a Panel of the Education and Training Committee which has been convened to:

*.... (d) consider and, if thought fit, withdraw approval from any course, qualification or institution which the Panel is satisfied no longer admits or recruits students.”*

## **Background information**

Council, 20 May 2009, enclosure 16, Code of Corporate Governance

<http://www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/council/codeofcorporategovernance/>

Education and Training Committee, 17 November 2011, enclosure 7: Proposed amendments to the Education and Training Committee’s Scheme of Delegation and Committee Standing Orders

## **Resource implications**

None

## **Financial implications**

None

## **Appendices**

None.

## **Date of paper**

28 November 2011