

Education and Training Committee Panel

Concerns about an approved programme's ongoing adherence the standards of education and training investigated under the programmes concerns process

Concern reference	15091
Date of decision	11 September 2019

Panel: Stephen Wordsworth (Chair) Luke Jenkinson
Maureen Drake Sonya Lam

Decision
That a directed visit will be undertaken to gather more information. The output of this directed visit will be to make a recommendation to the Committee about whether any action should be taken relating to the ongoing approval of the programmes.
Reasons
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee noted that following investigation, the Executive recommendation was to continue the programme concern investigation, with a directed visit to gather more information. The output of this directed visit would be to make a recommendation about whether any action should be taken relating to the ongoing approval of the programmes. 2. The Committee agreed with this recommendation, as it considered it a proportionate response to the known issues with the programme. It was noted that the provider has indicated that a visit towards the end of October 2019 would allow them to appoint a new staff team, and to resolve any other issues with the programme prior to any visit. The Committee agreed that the visit should take place towards the end of October 2019. 3. The Committee noted that the directed visit should consider the issues raised, primarily: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The progress against the recruitment of a new staff team, and consideration of whether the new team has the expertise to deliver the programmes effectively. b. If plans have not progressed to a sufficient stage at the time of the visit, what contingency plans are in place to ensure the programmes can run effectively for existing learners.

- c. Whether there is basis for the issues identified by the concerned parties, and if so whether there is impact on our standards being met by the programmes.
 - d. How the education provider will mitigate against the reoccurrence of the events that have led to the staff team resigning.
 - e. Any other issue(s) that impacts how the standards are met, including any outstanding issues from the ongoing annual monitoring process.
4. The Committee noted that the visiting team should meet the senior staff, learners (particularly student representatives), and those who raised the concerns to the HCPC.
5. The Committee noted that it was unlikely that the final outcome of the concerns process will be presented to the Committee before the transfer of social work to Social Work England (SWE) on 2 December 2019. As such the HCPC would need to hand the case over to SWE as work in progress. The Executive would ensure SWE are kept informed of any progress as an interested party through the investigation, including shadowing any action of the HCPC.

Signed: Stephen Wordsworth

Panel Chair