

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	Glasgow Caledonian University
Programme name	Local Analgesia with Nail Surgery for Podiatrists
Mode of delivery	Part time
Relevant part of HPC Register	Chiropodist / Podiatrist
Relevant entitlement(s)	Local anaesthetic
Date of visit	13 January 2011

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Executive summary

The Health Professions Council (HPC) approve educational programmes in the UK which health professionals must complete before they can apply to be registered with us. The HPC is a health regulator and our main aim is to protect the public. The HPC currently regulates 15 professions. All of these professions have at least one professional title which is protected by law. The HPC keep a register of health professionals who meet our standards for their training, professional skills, behaviour and health.

The visitors' report which follows outlines the recommended outcome made by the visitors on the ongoing approval of the programme at the education provider. This recommended outcome was accepted by the Education and Training Committee (Committee) on 31 March 2011. At this meeting, the Committee confirmed the ongoing approval of the programme. This means that the programme meets our standards of education and training (SETs) and ensures that those who complete it meet our standards of proficiency (SOPs) for their part of the Register. The programme is now granted open ended approval, subject to

Introduction

The HPC visited the programme at the education provider to consider issues raised by the previous year's annual monitoring process. The issues raised by annual monitoring affected the following standards - programme admissions, programme management and resources, curriculum, practice placements and assessment. The programme was already approved by the HPC and this visit assessed whether the programme continued to meet the standards of education and training (SETs) and continued to ensure that those who complete the programme meet the standard of proficiency (SOPs) for this entitlement.

This visit was an HPC only visit. The education provider did not validate or review the programme at the visit and the professional body did not consider their accreditation of the programme. The education provider did not provide a chair or secretary for the event as it considered the programme to be a short continuing development course and therefore a chair and secretary were not required.

Visit details

Name of HPC visitors and profession	Paul Blakeman (Chiropodist/Podiatrist) Catherine Mackenzie (Speech and Language Therapist)
HPC executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Mandy Hargood
Proposed student numbers	12 (two cohorts per year)
Initial approval	1 February 2006
Effective date that programme approval reconfirmed from	September 2011

Sources of evidence

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

	Yes	No	N/A
Programme specification	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 SETs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mapping document providing evidence of how the education provider has met the SOPs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 HPC did not review a programme specification prior to the visit as a programme specification has not been created for this award type. A mapping document for the SOPs was not required by the visitors as the programme is a post-registration qualification.

During the visit the HPC 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"/>
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"/>

Recommended outcome

To recommend a programme for ongoing approval, the visitors must be assured that the programme meets all of the standards of education and training (SETs) and that those who complete the programme meet the standard of proficiency (SOP) for this entitlement.

The visitors agreed to recommend to the Education and Training Committee that the ongoing approval of the programme is reconfirmed.

The visitors did not set any conditions for the programme.

Conditions are requirements that the education provider must meet before the programme can be recommended for ongoing approval. Conditions are set when certain standards of education and training have not been met or there is insufficient evidence of the standard being met.

The visitors have made a number of recommendations for the programme.

Recommendations are observations on the programme or education provider which do not need to be met before the programme is recommended for ongoing approval. Recommendations are normally set to encourage further enhancements to the programme and are normally set when it is felt that the particular standard of education and training has been met at, or just above the threshold level.

The visitors did not make any commendations on the programme.

Commendations are observations of innovative best practice by a programme or education provider.

Recommendations

3.2 The programme must be effectively managed.

Recommendation: The education provider should consider revisiting the Final programme documentation to check for any minor anomalies within this document.

Reason: The visitors were happy that this standard was met and the programme was managed effectively. However, the visitors noted in the Final programme documentation that there were inconsistencies. For example on page 8 of the Final programme documentation the number quoted for reflection and consolidation is 8 hours, whilst on the timetable on page 20 this figure is given as 10 hours. The programme team, in the meeting with the visitors noted already this anomaly, and said that the Final programme documentation would be checked and this and any other anomalies noted would be removed. The visitors considered that the programme team should review the documentation to be assured that the information contained in the Final programme documentation is accurate to enhance the programme management.

3.10 The learning resources, including IT facilities, must be appropriate to the curriculum and must be readily available to students and staff.

Recommendation: The programme team should continue to explore with the education provider how students on the programme can borrow library books under their own registration.

Reason: During the tour it was identified that students on this programme could not take books out of the library and during the programme team meeting, the team explained that the students on this programme could not take out books from the library, as the programme is seen as a continuing development programme. As it has no credit attached to it, students do not matriculate from the programme and their library access rights are limited to reviewing books in the library. This would ensure parity with their fellow matriculated students.

The visitors, whilst happy that this standard was met, as students can access the books and can use the internet facilities to look at journals, recommended that the programme team continues to explore further with the education provider to allow students to take out books from the library in order to enhance how they meet this standard.

Paul Blakeman
Catherine Mackenzie