

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	London Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Programme name	Paramedic Programme
Mode of delivery	Work based learning
Relevant part of the HCPC Register	Paramedic
Date of visit	7 – 8 July 2015

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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 the title 'paramedic' 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.

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 27 August 2015. 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 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 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 standards of education and training (SETs) and considered whether those who complete the programme meet the standards of proficiency (SOPs) for their part of the Register.

This visit was an HCPC only visit. The education provider and validating body 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 supplied an independent chair and secretary for the visit.

Visit details

Name and role of HCPC visitors	Clare Bates (Lay visitor) Glyn Harding (Paramedic) Anthony Hoswell (Paramedic)
HCPC executive officer (in attendance)	Amal Hussein
Proposed student numbers	18 per cohort, three cohorts per year
Proposed start date of programme approval	1 January 2016
Chair	Nick Drey (City University London)
Secretary	Valentina Bishop (London Ambulance Service)

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 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The HCPC did not review external examiners' reports prior to the visit as the programme is new and there is currently no external examiner.

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 HCPC met with students from the IHCD Paramedic Award programme as the programme seeking approval currently does not have any students enrolled on it.

Recommended outcome

To recommend a programme for approval the visitors must be satisfied that the programme meets all of the standards of education and training (SETs) and that those who complete the programme meet our standards of proficiency (SOPs) for the relevant part of the Register.

The visitors agreed to recommend to the Education and Training Committee that a condition is set on the programme, which must be met before the programme can be approved.

The visitors agreed that 57 of the SETs have been met and that conditions should be set on the remaining one standard.

Conditions are requirements that the education provider must meet before the programme can be approved. 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 also 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 can be approved. Recommendations are made to encourage further enhancements to the programme, normally when it is felt that the particular standard of education and training has been met at, or just above the threshold level.

Conditions

3.8 The resources to support student learning in all settings must be effectively used.

Condition: The education provider must revisit the documentation supporting student learning in all settings to ensure it is consistent, clear and up-to-date.

Reason: The visitors reviewed the programme documentation prior to the visit, and noted an incorrect statement within the programme documentation. The visitors noted within the documentation submitted, that the “Evidence-based Practice” module in the Student Handbook, Programme Map, page seven, stated the “Independent / directed study hour as 60 hours”. Whereas, the LAS Paramedic Programme Student Handbook, Appendix 4 Brief Module Descriptors, page eleven, stated the same module as requiring 80 hours of Independent / directed study hours. During the visit, the programme team confirmed the number of hours’ students will be required to undertake as independent learning as 80 hours in order to achieve the necessary learning outcomes. With this information, the visitors require the programme team to revise the programme documentation to ensure it has correct and up to date and is consequently an effective resource in supporting student learning.

Recommendations

3.17 Service users and carers must be involved in the programme.

Recommendation: The education provider is advised to monitor how service users and carers are involved in the programme.

Reason: From the documentation submitted the visitor noted the 'LAS Paramedic Programme Service users and Carers Strategy'. The visitors were satisfied that service users and carers are involved in the programme. However, the visitors recognise that the involvement of service users and carers is still at the early stages, and the level of involvements may change once the programme starts. As such, the visitors would like to advise the programme team to regularly monitor how service users and cares are involved in the programme.

4.7 The delivery of the programme must encourage evidence based practice.

Recommendation: The visitors would like to encourage the programme team to consider how evidence based practice will be delivered and encouraged throughout the programme.

Reason: From the review of the Student Handbook, Appendix 4, Brief Module Descriptors, the visitors noted the 15 credit 'Evidence-based Practice' module on page 10. From a review of this module, the visitors were satisfied that the delivery of the programme encourages evidence based practice and therefore this standard is met. However, the visitors noted that a large number of standard of proficiencies were associated with this module and would therefore like to encourage the programme team to consider reviewing the time allocated for this module to ensure there is sufficient time to cover the standard of proficiencies. In addition, the visitors noted that evidence based practice is solely contained in this module, as such the visitors would like to encourage the programme team to consider integrating evidence based practice associate learning outcomes in other modules. In this way, the delivery of the programme will encourage evidence based practice in variety of modules.

Clare Bates
Glyn Harding
Anthony Hoswell