

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	London Metropolitan University
Programme name	Professional Doctorate in Forensic Psychology
Mode of delivery	Full time Part time Flexible
Relevant part of the HCPC Register	Practitioner psychologist
Relevant modality / domain	Forensic psychologist
Date of visit	11 – 12 August 2015

Contents

Executive summary	2
Introduction.....	3
Visit details	3
Sources of evidence	4
Recommended outcome	5
Conditions.....	6
Recommendations.....	7

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 'practitioner psychologist' or 'forensic psychologist' 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. The education provider has until 14 September to provide observations on this report. This is independent of meeting any conditions. The report and any observations received will be considered by the Education and Training Committee (Committee) on 24 September 2015. At this meeting, the Committee will accept, reject or vary the visitors' recommended outcome. If necessary, the Committee may decide to vary the conditions.

The education provider is due to redraft and resubmit documentary evidence in response to the conditions outlined in this report by 1 September 2015. The visitors will consider this response and make a separate recommendation to the Committee on the approval of the programme. It is anticipated that this recommendation will be made to the Committee on 24 September 2015.

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	Frances Ashworth (Lay visitor) Emcee Chekwas (Forensic psychologist) George Delafield (Forensic psychologist)
HCPC executive officer (in attendance)	Alex Urquhart
Proposed student numbers	Four per cohort, one cohort per year
Proposed start date of programme approval	1 February 2016
Chair	Richard Skues (London Metropolitan University)
Secretary	Nikki Szaeo (London Metropolitan University)

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 descriptions of the modules prior to the visit as the documentation does not exist as this is not a taught programme.

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

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 a student from the MSc Forensic Psychology programme, as the programme seeking approval currently does not have any students enrolled on it.

The HCPC did not meet with the placement providers and educators as the programme is currently seeking approval and for the proposed programme students organise their own placement providers prior to the application process.

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 SET.

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 recommendation 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

5.9 Practice placement educators must be appropriately registered, unless other arrangements are agreed.

Condition: The education provider must revise the documentation to ensure that the expectations and requirements for practice placement supervisors are clear to applicants and placement staff.

Reason: For this standard the visitors were directed to the placement handbook, where on page 8 it states that “It is a requirement of the HCPC that all placement supervisors are registered with their professional body” the visitors noted that this is an incorrect statement and should be removed from the documentation. The HCPC does not stipulate that practice placement educators are required to be registered with the professional body, however the HCPC does state that they must be appropriately registered, unless other arrangements are agreed. The programme team explained that applicants are responsible for arranging their placement and agreeing a placement supervisor as part of the application process. The programme team then stated that they would expect a practice supervisor to be an HCPC registered forensic psychologist. The visitors noted that this was not clear in the documentation and therefore require the education provider to revise the documentation to accurately reflect the education providers expectations and requirements about the level of qualification and registration of placement supervisors clear to students and placement staff.

Recommendations

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

Recommendation: It is recommended that the education provider develops the involvement of service users and carers to broaden the range of service user and carer involvement with particular focus on the patient voice.

Reason: In meeting this standard the education provider defined their service users and carers as Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS), as such, in designing the programme the education provider consulted with a representative from HMPS. During the validation process the education provider included a representative from London HMPS on the validation panel to represent the needs of service users. The visitors met with a representative from London HMPS who described how her team were involved with the design and validation of the programme, along with plans to be involved in the revalidation process. The visitors agreed that the education provider had defined their service users and have involved them in the programme and are therefore satisfied that this standard is met. However they noted that the current involvement was narrow and did not include the patient voice. Therefore they recommend that the education provider develops the involvement of service users and carers to broaden the range of service user and carer involvement with particular focus on the patient voice.

Frances Ashworth
Emcee Chekwas
George Delafield