hpc health professions council

Visitors' report

| Name of education provider | Sheffield Hallam University |
|---|---|
| Programme name | BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy |
| Mode of delivery | Part time |
| Relevant part of HPC register | Physiotherapist |
| Date of visit | 2-4 December 2008 |

Contents

## 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 13 professions. All of these professions have at least one professional title which is protected by law. This means that anyone using the title 'Physiotherapist' or 'Physical therapist' must be registered with us. 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. This recommended outcome was accepted by the Education and Training Committee (Committee) on 11 June 2009. At the Committee meeting on 11 June 2009, the ongoing approval of the programme was re-confirmed. 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 HPC visited the programme at the education provider to consider major changes proposed to the programme. The major change affected the following standards - curriculum standards and assessment standards. 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 standards of proficiency (SOPs) for their part of the Register.

This visit was part of a joint event. The education provider reviewed the programme and the professional body considered their accreditation of the programme. The visit also considered the following programmes – BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy, Diploma of Higher Education Operating Department Practice, Diploma of Higher Education Paramedic Practice, BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography, BSc (Hons) Radiotherapy and Oncology. The education provider, the professional bodies and the HPC formed a joint panel, with an independent chair and secretary, supplied by the education provider. Whilst the joint panel participated in collaborative scrutiny of all the programmes and dialogue throughout the visit; this report covers the HPC's recommendations on this programme only. Separate reports exist for the other programmes. As an independent regulatory body, the HPC's recommended outcome is independent and impartial and based solely on the HPC's standards. Separate reports, produced by the education provider and the professional body, outline their decisions on the programmes' status.

**Visit details**

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of HPC visitors and profession | Kathryn Heathcote (Physiotherapist) Wendy Fraser (Occupational Therapist) |
| HPC executive officer(s) (in attendance) | Elisa Simeoni |
| Proposed student numbers | There is no commissioned numbers for the part-time course in 09/10. The course remains open should the Workforce Deanery wish to commission in 10/11. The current cohort student numbers is 18. The proposed student numbers is 20. |
| Initial approval | January 1996 |
| Effective date that programme approval reconfirmed from | September 2009 |
| Chair | Rod Apps (Sheffield Hallam University) |
| Secretary | Barbara Mainland (Sheffield Hallam University) |
| Members of the joint panel | Karen Beeton (The Chartered |

|  | Society of Physiotherapy) |
|  | Nina Thomson (The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy) |
|  | Angela Rees (Sheffield Hallam University, Internal Panel Member) |
|  | Tim Mulroy (Sheffield Hallam University, Internal Panel Member) |
|  | Mike Purdy (Sheffield Hallam University, Internal Panel Member) |

## 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 | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Descriptions of the modules | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Mapping document providing evidence of how the education provider has met the SETs | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Mapping document providing evidence of how the education provider has met the SOPs | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Practice placement handbook | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Student handbook | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Curriculum vitae for relevant staff | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| External examiners' reports from the last two years | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Advertising materials | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

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 | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Programme team | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Placements providers and educators/mentors | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Students | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Learning resources | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Specialist teaching accommodation (e.g. specialist laboratories and teaching rooms) | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

## 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 our standards of proficiency (SOPs) for their part of the Register.

The visitors agreed to recommend to the Education and Training Committee that a number of conditions are set on the programme, all of which must be met before the programme can be approved.

The visitors agreed that 54 of the SETs have been met and that conditions should be set on the remaining 9 SETs.

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 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 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.

Conditions

**2.1    The admissions procedures must give both the applicant and the education provider the information they require to make an informed choice about whether to make or take up the offer of a place on a programme.**

**Condition:** The education provider must revisit all the submitted programme documentation and any other documents to ensure that the terminology in use is reflective of the current landscape of statutory regulation.

**Reason:**  In the documentation submitted, the terminology used regarding HPC was not always accurate. In particular, the programme documentation must be amended to clearly state that successful completion of the programme will lead to eligibility to apply for registration with the Health Professions Council. Moreover, there are instances of out-of-date terminology in reference to the registered status of individuals such as "state registered".  Therefore the visitors considered that the terminology could be misleading to applicants and students and therefore require the documentation to be thoroughly reviewed to remove any instance of incorrect or out-of-date terminology.

**2.2.1   The admissions procedures must apply selection and entry criteria, including evidence of a good command of written and spoken English.**

**Condition:** The education provider must revisit the programme documentation to clearly refer to the International English Learning Testing System (IELTS) level for international students who want to apply to the programme.

**Reason:** In the programme documentation, there was a reference to IETLS instead of IELTS. The visitors wish the documentation to be amended to prevent confusion amongst applicants to the programme.

**3.1    The programme must have a secure place in the education provider's business plan.**

**Condition:** The education provider must confirm the prospective student cohort number as well as the commissioning number.

**Reason:** In the documentation submitted and in discussion with the programme team, it was clear that the student cohort number for the part time programme and the commissioning numbers were not confirmed for the academic year starting in September 2009. Therefore the visitors wish the education provider to provide a statement with the confirmed numbers in order to be assured this standard is met.

**3.2    The programme must be managed effectively.**

**Condition:** The programme team must provide the programme documentation for the BSc (Hons) part time programme.

**Reason:** The programme documentation provided prior to the visit and at the visit did not always clearly refer to the mode of study of the programme and therefore the visitors were unclear whether the education provider was seeking approval for the full time and/or the part time programmes. At the visit the programme team confirmed that they want a part time programme to be approved. However, since the visitors considered that there was a lack of information about the part time programme as some documents were referring only to the full time programme, the programme team must submit all programme documentation relating to the BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy part time programme September 2009 in order for the visitors to review it.

**3.3    There must be a named programme leader who has overall responsibility for the programme and who should be either on the relevant part of the HPC Register or otherwise appropriately qualified and experienced.**

**Condition:** The education provider must clarify the name of the programme leader for the part time programme and provide their CV.

**Reason:** In the documentation submitted prior to the visit, the visitors found that it was not made clear who the programme leader for the part time programme was. As the information provided was not clear, the visitors wish the programme specification to be updated to clearly reflect the name of the programme leader. Moreover, the visitors wish to review the CV of the programme leader in order to be assured that this person is either on the relevant part of the HPC register or otherwise appropriately qualified and experienced.

**4.7    Where there is inter-professional learning the profession-specific skills and knowledge of each professional group must be adequately addressed.**

**Condition:** The education provider must provide the final validated versions of the new inter-professional education modules and these should not indicate that they are separately approved by HPC.

**Reason:** The revalidation event arose from changes to the common inter-professional education modules that feature in all undergraduate health and social care programmes offered by the Faculty of Health and Wellbeing. The education provider was required to take into account the views of not only the HPC and relevant professional bodies, but also those of the Nursing and Midwifery Council and General Social Care Council. As a result of this, the revalidation is a multi-staged event taking place across two weeks. In order for the visitors to be confident that they have reviewed the programmes in their complete form, the visitors will require oversight of the final version of the module descriptors after all bodies have applied their requirements to them.

Additionally, the modules indicated that HPC would be separately approving the inter-professional education programme. These modules contribute to a portion of the courses being validated and do not in themselves lead to eligibility for applying to registration with HPC. The visitors stated, therefore, that this reference must be removed.

**5.11 Practice placement providers must ensure necessary information is available at the appropriate time for both the education provider and students.**

**Condition:** The education provider must provide evidence of a practice placement co-ordination policy.

**Reason:** From the documentation submitted and in discussion with the practice placement providers, it was not clear how the practice placement providers ensure that necessary information is available at the appropriate time for both the education provider and students. Therefore the visitors wish the education provider to show evidence of a practice placement co-ordination policy in place ensuring that students and the education provider receive the information they need from the various placement providers at the appropriate time.

**6.7.2 Assessment regulations must clearly specify requirements for awards which do not provide eligibility for inclusion onto the Register not to contain any reference to an HPC protected title in their title.**

**Condition:** The education provider must revisit the programme documentation to clearly articulate that exit awards do not lead to eligibility to apply for HPC registration.

**Reason:** In the documentation submitted it was clear that the education provider offered various intermediate awards. However it was not made clear in the documentation that these intermediate awards do not lead to eligibility to apply for HPC registration. Therefore the visitors wish the programme documentation to be updated to clarify for each intermediate awards that it does not lead to eligibility to apply for HPC registration in order to avoid any confusion for the potential applicants and for graduates applying for HPC Registration.

**6.7.5 Assessment regulations must clearly specify requirements for the appointment of at least one external examiner from the relevant part of the HPC Register unless other arrangements are agreed.**

**Condition:** The education provider must revisit the policy it has in place for external examiner appointments and amend it to reflect that the requirements of the regulator will be followed.

**Reason:** The education provider wide *Nomination for an initial appointment of a subject external examiner for a taught course programme* form indicated that external examiner appointments will be made taking into account the

requirements of "professional bodies". As the HPC is not a professional body, but a statutory regulatory body, the visitors were unable to see how the specific requirements of this standard are articulated in the documentation. Therefore the visitors felt the documentation required updating to reflect the requirements of the regulator as well as those of other professional, statutory or regulatory bodies (PSRBs).

Recommendations

**6.7.2 Assessment regulations must clearly specify requirements for awards which do not provide eligibility for inclusion onto the Register not to contain any reference to an HPC protected title in their title.**

**Recommendation:** The visitors wish to recommend that the programme team reconsiders the title of the following intermediate awards which do not lead to eligibility to apply for HPC Registration:  BSc Physiotherapy Support Work, Dip Higher Education in Physiotherapy Support Work and Cert Higher Education in Physiotherapy Support Work.

**Reason:** In the documentation submitted it was clear that the education provider offered various intermediate awards. The visitors felt that the titles of these intermediate awards using the term "Physiotherapy" and which do not lead to eligibility to apply for HPC registration as a "Physiotherapist" could lead to confusion for potential applicants to the programme and for graduates applying for HPC Registration. Therefore, in order to avoid any confusion the visitors recommend that the programme team reconsiders the title of the exit awards which do not lead to eligibility to apply for HPC Registration.


Kathryn Heathcote
Wendy Fraser