

Health Professions Council

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	University of East Anglia
Name and titles of programme(s)	Dip HE Operating Department Practice
Mode of Delivery (FT/PT)	FT
Date of Visit	19 – 20 December 2006
Proposed date of approval to commence	September 2007
Name of HPC visitors attending (including member type and professional area)	Alan Mount - Operating Department Practitioner Stephen Wordsworth - Operating Department Practitioner
HPC Executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Daljit Mahoon Abigail Creighton (Observer)
Joint panel members in attendance (name and delegation):	Geoff Moore, Chair (School of Chemical Sciences and Pharmacy, UEA) Malcolm Adams (School of Medicine, Health Policy and Practice, UEA) Catherine Wells (School of Allied Health Professions, UEA) Helen Booth, (External Panel Member, University of Surrey)

Scope of visit (please tick)

New programme	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Profession	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major change to existing programme	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visit initiated through Annual Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>

Confirmation of meetings held

	Yes	No	N/A
Senior personnel of 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Students (current or past as appropriate)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Confirmation of facilities inspected

	Yes	No	N/A
Library learning centre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IT facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specialist teaching accommodation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Confirmation that particular requirements/specific instructions (if any) of the Education and Training Committee that have been explored e.g. specific aspects arising from annual monitoring reports.

Requirement (please insert detail)	Yes	No	N/A
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Proposed student cohort intake number please state	20
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ALL CONDITIONS MET

The following summarises the key outcomes of the Approvals event and provides reasons for the decision.

CONDITIONS

Condition 1

SET 3 Programme Management and Resource Standards
3.9 Where students participate as patients or clients in practical and clinical teaching, appropriate protocols must be used to obtain their consent.

Condition:

The programme team must redraft and submit documentation to include a form utilised to obtain consent from students prior to them participating as patients or clients in practical and clinical teaching, e.g. role plays, practicing profession-specific techniques.

Reason:

The documentation lacked evidence which insured that this standard is met. A consent mechanism needs to be put in place to ensure that potential candidates are aware of the expectations of the programme regarding the level of participation expected by and from the student.

Condition 2

SET 4. Curriculum Standards
4.1 The learning outcomes must ensure that those who successfully complete the programme meet the standards of proficiency for their part of the Register.

Condition:

The programme team must redraft and submit evidence that students completing the programme are meeting our Standards of Proficiency. There needs to be clear indication that on completion of the learning outcomes, our Standards of Proficiency are being achieved, both in theory and in practice.

Reason:

There is no clear indication within the documentation that every student completing the programme can meet all of the Standards of Proficiency.

Condition 3

SET 5. Practice placements standards

5.7.2 Students and practice placement educators must be fully prepared for placement which will include information about and understanding of the timings and the duration of any placement experience and associated records to be maintained;

Condition:

In relation to the statement of 'Conditions for Pre-registration' of the programme in Volume B, it needs to be more explicit in relation to twenty four hour care, identifying where students are required to work outside normal working hours. The programme team must redraft and submit evidence of this.

Reason:

The information presented in the documentation in relation to the requirement for students to gain experience of delivering care out of hours is vague. Students need to have a clearer understanding of the extent of out of hours work which would be involved within the programme.

Condition 4

5.8.2 Unless other arrangements are agreed, practice placement educators are appropriately registered.

Condition:

The programme team must ensure that any reference to Operating Department Practitioner is removed where a practitioner is not registered with the HPC

Reason:

Operating Department Practitioner is a protected title which can only be used when a practitioner is registered with the HPC. Within the documentation it became apparent that a number of staff members are represented as Operating Department Practitioners when in fact they were not registered practitioners with the HPC.

Condition 5

6.4 The measurement of student performance and progression must be an integral part of the wider process of monitoring and evaluation, and use objective criteria.

Condition:

The programme team must redraft and submit evidence within the learning outcomes which clearly indicates the progression from level 1 to level 2.

Reason:

The learning outcomes lacked clarity of the differences between the levels. Students need to be provided with a clearer indication of their progression through the learning outcomes.

Deadline for conditions to be met: 13th April 2007

RECOMMENDATIONS

3.2 The programme must be managed effectively.

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

Recommendation:

To continue developing a suitable course leader who is an ODP on the register.

Reason:

The current course director is not an Operating Department Practitioner however they are appropriately qualified to undertake the role of a programme leader. In order to develop the programme and its profession specific knowledge and skills, the Visitors felt the appointment of an Operating Department Practitioner with the relevant academic qualifications and experience would be more appropriate.

3.4 There must be an adequate number of appropriately qualified and experienced staff in place to deliver an effective programme.

Recommendation:

The programme team should ensure that if the number of students' increases then so should an adequate number of appropriately qualified and experience staff.

Reason:

There should always be an assurance that there is enough staff to deliver the programme effectively, without compromising our standards and that there is an adequate balance between staff and students.

3.13 The learning resources, including the stock of periodicals and subject books, and IT facilities, including internet access, must be appropriate to the curriculum and must be readily available to students and staff.

Recommendation:

The programme team should continue to achieve their own identified action plan in relation to providing equality of I.T. resources across all practice sites

Reason:

There should be parity of IT access for all students on the programme, regardless of the practice site they are based in. This has already been considered by the programme team through their action plan which we encourage

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

Recommendation:

The programme team may wish to review the way in which IPL is delivered and credited.

Reason:

In light of student comments, it was felt that the additional workload and the way in which the IPL is structured within the programme, students found difficulties in coping with the pressure of the workload and the timings of the IPL sessions.

5.8.1 Unless other arrangements are agreed, practice placement educators must have relevant qualifications and experience.

Recommendation:

To ensure that there is a balance between the number of Operating Department Practitioners and nurses acting as mentors.

Reason:

At present there is a bias toward nurses acting as mentors. Attempts should be made to balance this with more Operating Department Practitioners to ensure that students in practice placements have equal opportunity to have a mentor with relevant qualifications and experience from both professions.

The nature and quality of instruction and facilities meets the Standards of Education and Training.

We recommend to the Education and Training Committee of the HPC that they approve this programme (subject to any conditions being met).

Visitors' signatures:

Alan Mount



Stephen Wordsworth

Date: 15/1/07