

Agenda Item 11

Enclosure 8

Paper ETC 72/02

Education and Training Committee

**OUTCOMES TO BE ACHIEVED BY APPROVED
EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROVISION**

From the Secretary

for discussion and agreement

OUTCOMES TO BE ACHIEVED BY APPROVED EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROVISION

1. Background

This is an explicit requirement linked to the wider Government modernisation agenda in several contexts and specifically in the HPO.

It has been progressed centrally through the DoH commissioning the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) to produce " Subject Benchmarks " (SB), which are statements about the outcome attributes expected of those successfully completing an approved course to make them fit for :

- award (at the institution concerned and for academic progression)
- purpose (specifically for employment in the NHS), and
- practice (i.e. state registration at HPC and membership of the relevant professional body).

The SBs are designed to be used for Quality Assurance (QA) purposes by all the stakeholders involved in accreditation of health care courses.

2. Current Position

Phase I of the SB programme has achieved SBs in eight of the 12 professions at HPC.

The position for the remainder is as follows :-

Biomedical Science : a Phase II SB is being developed and already exists in draft form.

Clinical Science : the SB model cannot be applied here. HPC, the Association of Clinical Scientists, and DoH are in discussion with QAA on developing an equivalent data set, which will also inform the Standards of Proficiency work.

Arts Therapists : the information for an SB already exists. The professional bodies are in discussion with QAA to investigate how an SB can be developed.

Paramedics : the equivalent information exists as a publication from the Institute for Health Care Development, and will be used for the time being pending the profession's longer term move into degree courses.

3. Options

The option of not using SBs for this purpose is unrealistic and would run counter to a series of interlinked policies and initiatives. CPSM and then HPC have agreed to work with other stakeholders to use SBs jointly with them for QA purposes.

The main option open to HPC is to ensure SBs remain flexible and up to date and that other data sources are used for this purpose when they are also relevant to it.

4. Recommendations and Timetable

The Committee is recommended to endorse the strategy of using SBs for this purpose subject to the caveats in para 3 above.

The eight / nine SBs can be republished for this purpose immediately. The remaining professions could publish documentation or work in progress whenever needed.