

**Brochure :**  
**Overview of the Education and Training Committee (ETC)**

**Introduction**

The Health Professions Council (HPC) is the new regulator whose duty is to safeguard the health and well-being of anyone using or needing the services of the 12 health care professions it regulates.

HPC, through its Education and Training Committee (ETC), is, therefore, the regulatory body for educational provision which qualifies those completing it for entry on the Register. HPC's most important activity here is to set standards.

**Purpose**

The roles of ETC are to advise the Council on :

- standards of proficiency for safe and effective practice,
- standards of education and training (to meet the standards of Proficiency) which may include outcome standards from approved provision,
- standards of good health, conduct and character at admission to and for remaining on approved courses,
- the appointment of visitors,
- procedures for approval, review, re-approval, monitoring or withdrawal of approval from approved provision,
- criteria for approval of education and training provision (courses, examinations, qualifications and institutions),
- a register of approved provision,
- training for assistant grades,
- Continuing Professional Development in due course.

**Constitution**

The Education and Training Committee has fewer members than the Council. Within this membership it has:

- a Chair who must be a Council member (or alternate),
- at least one Council member (or alternate),
- one (but no more than one) registered member from each Part of the Register, and
- at least one member from each of the UK countries.

At present the members of the Committee are all also members of Council, with the exception of one member, but this may change in the future.

**Discharge of Duties**

The Committee works on a multi-professional basis; it meets in public; consults on all its Standards, criteria and processes; works collaboratively with partner bodies; and publishes all its standards, criteria, guidance and procedures.

It collaborates within the provisions of the HPO with bodies such as UK Health Departments (and their agents), professional bodies, educational institutions, and educational standards setting bodies – especially the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

Where work elsewhere can be used by the Committee, it does not seek to duplicate or supplant it. The ETC relies on professional bodies for definitions of scopes of practice, and it relies on QAA's Subject Benchmarks for the outcomes of approved provision.

### **Mechanisms**

ETC relies on information supplied by or on behalf of educational institutions and on the visitors the Council appoints for its advice on educational provision. This advice is sent to advisory bodies for each part of the Register where HPC collaborates with the professional bodies. These bodies exercise peer professional scrutiny in discussion of the reports and other documentation it receives and make recommendations to the Committee.

The standards, criteria, and processes used by the Committee are all published elsewhere.

### **Continuing Professional Development / Post-Registration Qualifications**

ETC will be extending its powers into these areas after a separate consultation. The Council's stated policy is that it,

" . . . . has decided that CPD will be linked to registration as people supported this in principle. It will not come into effect for at least 3 years however. Council has decided to hold another consultation on this within two years when it will set out its proposals in more detail.

The Council has already decided however that among other things CPD should take account of the needs of part-time and self employed registrants. It should also take account of the work others such as the Allied Health Professions are currently doing in this area. "

For the time being the initiative in this area lies with the professional bodies and employers.