

Education and Training Committee, 5 March 2015

Review of the standards of education and training – Update on activities

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

In September 2014, the Education and Training Committee discussed and agreed the proposed scope, content and process for a periodic review of the standards of education and training (SETs) and supporting guidance document. The review will be conducted in phases over approximately three years, comprising a range of research and engagement activities to gather the views of stakeholders; a Professional Liaison Group (PLG) to discuss potential changes to the standards; and a public consultation.

This paper provides an update on the research and stakeholder engagement activities, including both those which have been completed and those which are planned.

Decision

This paper is to note; no decision is required.

Background information

- Education and Training Committee, 11 September 2014. Review of the standards of education and training.
<http://www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10004814Enc02-Reviewofthestandardsofeducationandtraining.pdf>

Resource implications

None.

Financial implications

None.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Timetable for standards of education and training review (2014-2017)

Date of paper

23 February 2015

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The HCPC standards of education and training (SETs) set out the requirements for pre-registration education and training programmes which are approved by us. They are common across all 16 professions and cover areas such as admissions, curricula, management, practice placements and assessment. A programme that successfully meets the SETs will enable a student to meet the HCPC standards of proficiency (SOPs) by its completion. A student successfully completing an approved programme will then be eligible to apply for registration with us.
- 1.2 The guidance supporting the standards has been written to provide advice to education and training providers on how programmes will be assessed and monitored against the standards.
- 1.3 We aim to carry out periodic reviews of all our standards approximately every five years. The SETs were last reviewed starting in 2007, and the current standards came into effect in July 2009.
- 1.4 In September 2014, the Education and Training Committee (ETC) agreed the scope, process and timeline of a periodic review of the SETs which commenced in late 2014 and is expected to finish in 2017.¹ This paper provides the ETC with an update on the activities which have been completed to date, as well as those which are planned, as part of the current review.

2. Background to the review

- 2.1 The Executive's initial assessment is that the existing standards generally work well, and therefore the forthcoming review is likely to focus on strengthening rather than radically changing them. The periodic review aims to ensure that the standards:
 - remain fit for purpose;
 - are well understood by our stakeholders including registrants, service users and carers, education providers and the public; and
 - take account of change, including the regulation of new professions and changes in practice, legislation, technology, guidelines and wider society.

¹ Education and Training Committee, 11 September 2014. Review of the standards of education and training. <http://www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10004814Enc02-Reviewofthestandardsofeducationandtraining.pdf>

2.2 In addition, an examination of the wider policy context (including commitments made by the Council, third-party reports and recommendations) has highlighted a number of key themes for consideration during the review. We have used the themes listed below as a starting point, but they may be revised and/or added to as the review progresses.

- Structure, format, language and tone
- Professionalism in health and care professionals
- Interprofessional education
- Student fitness to practise
- Preparation for practice among newly qualified professionals
- Practice placements
- Values in education and training.

2.3 The review will be carried out in three phases:

- 1) **Research and stakeholder engagement:** The Executive is undertaking a range of activities aimed at gathering views from a number of stakeholder groups, including education providers, students, practice placement educators, service users, Education Department employees and visitors. We are also seeking to explore specific topics in more depth via commissioned research.
- 2) **Professional Liaison Group (PLG):** A PLG, including representation from a range of key stakeholders, will be convened to consider the outcomes from the research and stakeholder engagement activities of the first phase and any potential amendments to the SETs and supporting guidance.
- 3) **Public consultation:** A public consultation on the proposed revised SETs and supporting guidance will be an opportunity to seek views across a broader range of stakeholders, including those not targeted during the earlier phases.

2.4 The review is planned to finish in 2017, with the new standards applicable to education and training programmes from the 2017-2018 academic year. An indicative timeline is attached at Appendix 1; it is possible that these dates may change as the review progresses.

3. Update on stakeholder engagement activities

3.1 The table below shows activities which have been completed and those which are planned as part of the review. It also provides information on the main stakeholder groups which have been or will be targeted by each activity.

Activity	Stakeholder groups	Description	Timescales
Education stakeholder event (2014)	Council/ETC members Education providers Professional bodies	The event included updates from the Executive and from the Chair of the ETC, as well as opportunity for preliminary discussion and feedback from attendees about what the review should consider.	April 2014 Completed
Allied Health Professions Federation (AHPF) Education Leads meeting	Professional bodies Education providers	Professional bodies for 8 professions were represented at the meeting. The agenda included a session on the review of the SETs and broad discussion on how the standards could be amended or strengthened.	October 2014 Completed
NHS Education for Scotland (NES) AHP Advisory Group	Professional bodies Registrants Education providers	The Policy Manager gave a brief presentation to the advisory group about the role of the SETs in HCPC approval of education and training programmes, as well as plans for the review. Small group discussions were held based on key themes.	December 2014 Completed
Visitor training sessions	HCPC Visitors	Members of the Policy and Standards Department attended refresher training sessions for education visitors to facilitate a session on the SETs review, with small group discussions based around key themes.	October 2014 – February 2015 Completed
Joint University Councils Social Work Education Committee (JUCSWEC)	Education providers	The Policy Manager will attend the Committee's meeting to gather feedback from members on key themes.	March/April 2015 Planned
HEI service user and carer groups	Service users and carers	We are in discussion with two HEIs to determine the best ways to engage with service users and carers who have experience of education and training programmes. This is likely to involve developing dedicated service user and carer feedback events.	April and June 2015 Planned

Education Department workshop	HCPC Executive	A half-day off-site workshop attended by members of the Education Department will focus on the utility, effectiveness and clarity of the SETs and guidance in the context of the education approval process.	May 2015 Planned
Council of Deans meeting	Education providers	Members of the Policy and Standards Department will attend to facilitate a workshop on the review and gather feedback around key themes.	May 2015 Planned
Survey of education and training providers	Education providers	The education provider survey to be undertaken by the Education Department will include a small number of questions aimed at eliciting feedback about the SETs.	Spring 2015 Planned
Academic Registrars Council meeting	Education providers	Attendance by a member of the Policy and Standards Department will allow for engagement with senior level managers responsible for academic administration at universities and higher education institutions.	June 2015 Planned
Education stakeholder event (2015)	Council/ETC members Education providers Professional bodies	Following on from the 2014 event, this will be an opportunity to update stakeholders on the progress of the review and facilitate more targeted discussions based on the outcome of other engagement activities.	September 2015 Planned
Education seminars	Education providers	Members of the Policy and Standards Department will gather feedback from education providers via themed discussions.	Autumn 2015 Planned

4. Update on research activities

4.1 The table below provides an update on the research projects being commissioned to support the review of the SETs.

Research project	Update	Stakeholder groups
Interprofessional education (IPE)	We have commissioned a research team at Keele University to undertake this research. The project commenced in October 2014 and will incorporate a literature review, survey of approved programmes, targeted site visits, case studies and interviews. The final report is expected by the end of June 2015, and the research team will subsequently present their findings to the Committee.	Education providers Practice placement educators Students
Preparation for practice	We commissioned the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education of Kingston University London and St George's, University of London to carry out this research. The project is due to begin in early March 2015 and will finish in September 2015. The research team will present their findings to the Committee following completion of the project.	Education providers Practice placement educators Students Employers Newly qualified registrants Service users and carers

Timetable for standards of education and training review (2014-2017)

Dates	Activity
April 2014	Education stakeholders event
June 2014	Call for external research proposals on interprofessional education (IPE)
September 2014	SETs review proposal to ETC
September 2014	Research brief on preparation for practice to ETC
September 2014	Call for external research proposals on preparation for practice
October 2014	Begin internal research and stakeholder engagement activities
March 2014	Update on review activities to ETC
June 2015	Professional Liaison Group (PLG) terms of reference to ETC
July 2015	Council approval of PLG terms of reference
June – August 2015	Selection of Professional Liaison Group members and preparation of papers for consideration
September 2015	IPE research final report to ETC
November 2015	Preparation for practice research final report to ETC
Late September 2015 – early March 2016	PLG meetings (x4)
June 2016	Draft standards and consultation document to ETC
July 2016	Council approval of draft standards and consultation document
September – November 2016	Public consultation
March 2017	Consultation response and revised standards to ETC
March 2017	Council approval of revised standards for publication
May/June 2017	New standards published
2017-2018 academic year	New standards phased into operational processes