

Education and Training Panel

Focused review – re-referral

Education provider	University of Ulster
Assessment ref	CAS-01426-W6S4T6
Date of decision	27 September 2024

Panel: Steven Vaughan (Chair)
Katie Thirlaway

Decisions
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That the art therapy programme be re-referred through the focused review process, with a focus on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• implementation of the revised standards of proficiency (SOPs) for the art therapy programme.2. That the education provider be re-referred through the performance review process, with a focus on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• support for, and performance of, visiting lecturers, particularly those based internationally; and• revalidation of the art therapy programme.
Reasons
<p>Having reviewed the report and the observations provided by various stakeholders, the Panel accepted the executive's recommendation that the education provider and its programmes should be re-referred through the focused review process and the performance review process, for the reasons noted below.</p> <p>Referral to focused review:</p> <p>The Panel acknowledged the poor experiences faced by the stakeholders and the difficulties this had caused as set out in the report and the observations. The Panel noted the actions that had been taken by the education provider to rectify these and were satisfied that the education provider had the appropriate policies</p>

and processes in place to ensure learners would meet the SOPs on completion of the programme. The Panel endorsed the visitors' conclusion that there were no concerns about public safety in view of the evidence presented.

The Panel considered the referral to focused review to be an appropriate response due to the implications of the evidence received, in view of the HCPC's regulatory requirement for the revised SOPs to be delivered to new cohorts from September 2023.

As there was no evidence that this applied to the wider professions run by the education provider, this referral applies only to the art therapy programme.

Referrals to performance review:

The Panel considered the referrals to performance review to be an appropriate response, as the activities had either not yet occurred or were in the process of occurring. It was therefore considered appropriate to ask the education provider to reflect on these activities. The Panel were pleased to note that the performance review was scheduled for 2025-26, which would enable these referrals to be taken forward within a short timeframe.



Signed:..... Panel Chair