

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	Bangor University
Programme name	Non-Medical / Independent Prescribing (V300)
Mode of delivery	Part time
Relevant part of the HCPC Register	Chiropodist / Podiatrist Physiotherapist Radiographer
Relevant entitlement(s)	Supplementary prescribing
Date of visit	15 January 2013

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Executive summary

The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) approve educational programmes in the UK which health and care professionals must complete before they can apply to be registered with us. The HCPC is a statutory regulator and our main aim is to protect the public. The HCPC currently regulates 16 professions. All of these professions have at least one professional title which is protected by law. This means that anyone using the title Chiropodist / Podiatrist, Physiotherapist or Radiographer must be registered with us. The HCPC keep a register of health and care professionals who meet our standards for their training, professional skills, behaviour and health.

As well as approving educational programmes for people who want to join the Register, the HCPC also approve a small number of programmes for those already on the Register. The post-registration programmes we currently approve are supplementary prescribing programmes (for chiropodists / podiatrists, radiographers and physiotherapists) and programmes in local anaesthetics and prescription-only medicine (for chiropodists / podiatrists).

The visitors' report which follows outlines the recommended outcome made by the visitors on the approval of the programme. This recommended outcome was accepted by the Education and Training Committee (Committee) on 27 March 2013. At the Committee meeting on 27 March 2013, the programme was approved. This means that the education provider has met the condition(s) outlined in this report and that the programme meets our standards of education and training (SETs) and ensures that those who complete it meet our standards of proficiency (SOPs) for their part of the Register. The programme is now granted open ended approval, subject to satisfactory monitoring.

Introduction

The HCPC visited the programme at the education provider as it was a new programme which was seeking HCPC approval for the first time. This visit assessed the programme against the standards of education and training (SETs) and considered whether those who complete the programme meet the standards of proficiency (SOPs) for their part of the Register.

This visit was an HCPC only visit. The education provider and validating did not validate or review the programme at the visit and the professional body did not consider their accreditation of the programme. The education provider supplied an independent chair and secretary for the visit.

Visit details

Name of HCPC visitors and profession	Gwyn Thomas (Paramedic) Paul Blakeman (Chiroprapist / Podiatrist)
HCPC executive officer (in attendance)	Matthew Nelson
Proposed student numbers	30
Proposed start date of programme approval	September 2013
Chair	David Wright (Bangor University)
Secretary	Gemma Plowman (Bangor University)

Sources of evidence

Prior to the visit the HCPC reviewed the documentation detailed below, sent by the education provider:

	Yes	No	N/A
Programme specification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Descriptions of the modules	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mapping document providing evidence of how the education provider has met the SETs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mapping document providing evidence of how the education provider has met the SOPs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Practice placement handbook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student handbook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum vitae for relevant staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
External examiners' reports from the last two years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

During the visit the HCPC saw the following groups or facilities:

	Yes	No	N/A
Senior managers of the education 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/mentors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Learning resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specialist teaching accommodation (eg specialist laboratories and teaching rooms)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The HCPC met with nursing and pharmacy students, as the programme is seeking approval by the HCPC and therefore does not currently have any chiropody / podiatry, physiotherapy or radiography students enrolled on it.

Recommended outcome

To recommend a programme for approval, the visitors must be assured that the programme meets all of the standards of education and training (SETs) and that those who complete the programme meet our standards of proficiency (SOPs) for their part of the Register.

The visitors agreed to recommend to the Education and Training Committee that a number of conditions are set on the programme, all of which must be met before the programme can be approved.

The visitors agreed that 55 of the SETs have been met and that conditions should be set on the remaining 2 SETs.

Conditions are requirements that the education provider must meet before the programme can be recommended for approval. Conditions are set when certain standards of education and training have not been met or there is insufficient evidence of the standard being met.

The visitors have also made one recommendation for the programme.

Recommendations are observations on the programme or education provider which do not need to be met before the programme is recommended for approval.

Recommendations are normally set to encourage further enhancements to the programme and are normally set when it is felt that the particular standard of education and training has been met at, or just above the threshold level.

Conditions

3.8 The resources to support student learning in all settings must be effectively used.

Condition: The programme team must revisit programme documentation to ensure the terminology in use is reflective of the current terminology used in relation to statutory regulation and the HCPC.

Reason: The visitors noted the programme documentation submitted by the education provider did not fully comply with the relevant guidance issued by HCPC. There were a number of instances across the documentation where the programme's learning outcomes were mapped to 'HCPC outcomes' (Appendix 3b; HCPC learning outcomes mapping; module handbook, p20; DMP handbook, p19 and the student portfolio). The programme team indicated that these outcomes had been taken from The Department of Health's 'Outline Curriculum for Training Programmes to prepare Allied Health Professionals as Supplementary Prescribers'. Whilst the visitors were satisfied that these outcomes covered the HCPC's singular standard of proficiency relevant to supplementary prescribing (within SOP 2.4b), they noted that the term 'HCPC outcome' is not a term used by the HCPC. Programme learning outcomes must instead be mapped to the singular relevant standard of proficiency. The visitors require the documentation to be reviewed to remove any instances of incorrect terminology. In this way the visitors can be sure that the documentary resources available to support students' learning are being effectively used and that this standard can be met.

4.5 The curriculum must make sure that students understand the implications of the HCPC's standards of conduct, performance and ethics.

Condition: The education provider must demonstrate how the curriculum ensures that students understand the implications of the HCPC's standards of conduct, performance and ethics.

Reason: From a review of the programme documentation the visitors noted that while there was a section on professional unsuitability, there was no reference to HCPC's standards of conduct, performance and ethics. Further discussion with the programme team revealed that these standards (along with equivalent codes of conduct from other regulators) had been considered whilst assembling the examples of professional unsuitability. Although students on the programme will be existing HCPC registrants who agree to adhere to the HCPC standards of conduct performance and ethics as part of the registration and renewal processes, they will have to consider the standards under the new scope of a supplementary prescriber. Whilst the visitors felt that the elements of the standards of conduct, performance and ethics may be covered, they require additional evidence to identify precisely where the programme team covers the HCPC's standards of conduct, performance within the programme. By doing so the visitors can be assured that students on the programme understand the implications of the HCPC's standards of conduct, performance and ethics, including how and when they apply.

Recommendations

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

Recommendation: The education provider should consider that if the programme recruits students beyond the 30 funded places stated, the staffing levels for the programme are reviewed appropriately.

Reason: The visitors were content that this standard was met. However, the documentation and discussions with the programme team indicated that on top of the 30 funded places on offer to applicants to the programme, they would also consider recruiting self-funded students to a total maximum number that resources will allow. This maximum number was undefined. If the programme does recruit beyond the 30 funded places, the visitors would like the education provider to consider reviewing the staff numbers for the programme to ensure there continues to be an adequate number of appropriately qualified and experienced staff in place to deliver an effective programme.

Gwyn Thomas
Paul Blakeman