

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	Glasgow Caledonian University
Programme name	MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration)
Mode of delivery	Full time
Relevant part of the HCPC Register	Physiotherapist
Date of visit	1 – 3 April 2014

Executive summary	2
Introduction.....	3
Visit details	3
Sources of evidence	4
Recommended outcome	5
Conditions.....	6
Recommendations.....	9

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. We are a statutory regulator and our main aim is to protect the public. We currently regulate 16 professions. All of these professions have at least one professional title which is protected by law. This means that anyone using the title 'physiotherapist' 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.

The visitors report which follows outlines the recommended outcome made by the visitors on the ongoing approval of the programme. This recommended outcome was accepted by the Education and Training Committee (Committee) on 2 June 2014. At the Committee meeting, the ongoing approval of the programme was re-confirmed. 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 to consider major changes proposed to the programme. The major change affected the following standards - programme admissions, programme management and resources, curriculum, practice placements and assessment. The programme was already approved by the HCPC and this visit assessed whether the programme continued to meet the standards of education and training (SETs) and continued to ensure that those who complete the programme meet the standards of proficiency (SOPs) for their part of the Register.

This visit was part of a joint event. The education provider validated the programme and the professional body considered their accreditation of the programme. The visit also considered the following programmes - BSc (Hons) Radiotherapy and Oncology – Full Time; BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Imaging - Full Time; BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy - Full Time; BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy - Full Time; BSc (Hons) Podiatry - Full Time; MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration) - Full Time; BSc in Operating Department Practice - Full Time. The education provider, the professional bodies and the HCPC formed a joint panel, with an independent chair and secretary, supplied by the education provider. Whilst the joint panel participated in collaborative scrutiny of all the programmes and dialogue throughout the visit; this report covers the HCPC's recommendations on this programme only. Separate reports exist for the other programmes. As an independent regulatory body, the HCPC's recommended outcome is independent and impartial and based solely on the HCPC's standards. Separate reports, produced by the education provider and the professional body, outline their decisions on the programmes' status.

Visit details

Name of HCPC visitors and profession	Karen Harrison (Physiotherapist) Margaret Hanson (Occupational therapist)
HCPC executive officer (in attendance)	Nicola Baker
Proposed student numbers	44 per year
First approved intake	September 2009
Effective date that programme approval reconfirmed from	September 2014
Chair	Elaine Smith (Glasgow Caledonian University)
Secretary	Morven Gillies (Glasgow Caledonian University)
Members of the joint panel	Rachel Russell (Internal Panel Member) Karen Morris (College of Occupational Therapists) Julie Taylor (College of Occupational Therapists) Caroline Grant (College of Occupational Therapists) Janette Grey (Chartered Society of Physiotherapists) Jennifer Duthie (Chartered Society of Physiotherapists)

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"/>

Recommended outcome

To recommend a programme for ongoing 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 52 of the SETs have been met and that conditions should be set on the remaining five SETs.

Conditions are requirements that the education provider must meet before the programme can be recommended for ongoing 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 a 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 ongoing 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

2.1 The admissions procedures must give both the applicant and the education provider the information they require to make an informed choice about whether to take up or make an offer of a place on a programme.

Condition: The programme team must ensure that the information provided to potential applicants clearly articulates all the entry requirements for the programme.

Reason: The visitors reviewed the documentation submitted in relation to admissions, including the programme information in the prospectus and on the website. They were unable to see from this evidence, how prospective applicants are informed of all relevant entry requirements, particularly occupational health requirements and criminal convictions check procedures, and any costs to the students associated with these processes. The visitors therefore require further evidence as to how and when applicants are informed of the full entry requirements for the programme.

2.3 The admissions procedures must apply selection and entry criteria, including criminal convictions checks.

Condition: The programme team must provide further evidence in the programme admissions documentation that criminal convictions checks are applied in the admissions process.

Reason: The visitors were directed to the 'MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-Reg) Programme Re-Approval Submission Document Jan 2014' as evidence against this SET. Section 2.3 states that all students are required to be a member of The Disclosure Scotland: Protecting Vulnerable Groups scheme. The student meets the cost of applying to the scheme. International and EU students have to complete a local police check prior to commencing the programme. Students then undertake a self-disclosure on a yearly basis whilst on the programme. However, the visitors could not find the requirement of criminal convictions checks in the entry requirements contained within Section six: Admissions in the programme specification, or in the admissions information provided to potential applicants. The visitors therefore require further evidence that the admissions procedures will apply selection and entry criteria including criminal convictions checks.

2.4 The admissions procedures must apply selection and entry criteria, including compliance with any health requirements.

Condition: The programme team must provide further evidence in the programme admissions documentation that occupational health requirements are applied in the admissions process.

Reason: The visitors were directed to the 'MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-Reg) Programme Re-Approval Submission Document Jan 2014' as evidence against this SET. Section 2.3 states that students are advised to undertake vaccinations. It also emphasises the physical demands of the profession and states that students are selected, "...based on the graduates' educational qualifications, academic references, personal statements, medical fitness, [adhering to the Disability Discrimination Act] and interview performance." However, the visitors were unable to find further information on how and when the application of occupational health screening occurs. They also could not find

any information on health entry requirements contained within Section six: Admissions in the programme specification, or within the information provided to potential applicants. The visitors therefore require further evidence that the admissions procedures will apply specified selection and entry criteria to ensure compliance with any health requirements.

2.6 The admissions procedures must apply selection and entry criteria, including accreditation of prior (experiential) learning and other inclusion mechanisms.

Condition: The programme team must ensure that inclusion mechanisms, such as recognition or accreditation of prior learning, are clearly articulated in the programme admissions documentation.

Reason: The visitors were directed to Section 2.3 of the MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-Registration) Programme Re-Approval Submission Document Jan 2014 as evidence against this SET. The SETs mapping also provided a link to the education provider's admissions policy, however the visitors were unable to find information within this specific to the MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-Registration) programme. They were unable to find a clear statement within Section 2.3 of the submission document regarding inclusion mechanisms, whether (and how) they are used for entry to this programme and any restrictions on the amount or type of credits that can be recognised under the Recognition of Prior Learning policy. They also could not find any information on the programme's recognition of prior learning entry requirements contained within Section six: Admissions in the programme specification. The visitors therefore require further evidence that the admissions procedures will apply selection and entry criteria, including accreditation of prior (experiential) learning and other inclusion mechanisms. In this way they can ensure that this SET is met.

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

Condition: The education provider must ensure that the resources to support student learning throughout the programme are clear and consistently reflective of the current setting for registration of physiotherapists.

Reason: In review of the documentation submitted prior to the visit, the visitors noted a number of inaccurate references to the HCPC. For instance the programme handbook refers to the HCPC's former name, 'HPC' (page 25). The Programme Specification Pro-forma also states that, "Due to the requirements of the professional bodies there will be no aegrotat awards of... MSc Physiotherapy..." These references do not accurately reflect the HCPC as the regulatory body, and could lead to misinterpretation as to its requirements and guidance for students. The visitors therefore require the programme documentation to be reviewed to ensure that all references are clear and accurate.

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

Condition: The education provider must provide the HCPC with updated documentation following any major changes as a result of the revalidation and reaccreditation process.

Reason: At the visit, there were a number of aspects of the programme where the professional body and internal panels have required changes to be made. These included for example, amendments to the module descriptors, programme structure and assessment processes. The visitors therefore require the finalised documentation to be submitted where changes have been made, to ensure that the SETs will continue to be met under any changes, and to ensure that the documentation continues to be clear, accurate and appropriate to support students through the programme.

6.11 Assessment regulations must clearly specify requirements for the appointment of at least one external examiner who must be appropriately experienced and qualified and, unless other arrangements are agreed, be from the relevant part of the Register.

Condition: The programme team must submit further evidence that there will be at least one external examiner who will be appropriately experienced and qualified and, unless other arrangements are agreed, be from the relevant part of the Register.

Reason: The visitors were satisfied with the current external examiner arrangements. However, the visitors noted in the documentation submitted by the education provider there was insufficient detail concerning the recruitment of external examiners to this programme. This standard requires the assessment regulations to clearly articulate the requirements for the appointment of at least one external examiner who must be appropriately experienced and qualified and, unless other arrangements are agreed, be appropriately registered with the HCPC. The visitors therefore require evidence that HCPC requirements regarding the appointment of external examiners to the programme have been included in the relevant documentation to ensure that this standard will continue to be met.

Recommendations

4.4 The curriculum must remain relevant to current practice.

Recommendation: The programme team are advised to continue to focus on and develop the students' ability to recognise and respond appropriately to situations where it is necessary to share information to safeguard service users or the wider public.

Reason: In discussion with the students at the visit, the visitors asked about the delivery of legal and ethical aspects of practice in the programme. Whistleblowing was discussed and many students present appeared unsure as to the formal processes to follow when met with concerning behaviour or practices whilst working in the placement setting. The new standards of proficiency (SOPs) for Physiotherapists include a requirement for them to be able to recognise and respond appropriately to situations where it is necessary to share information to safeguard service users or the wider public (SOP 7.3). The visitors were confident that this SOP will be met by students upon graduation from the programme, however, they considered that a greater focus on the current setting of ethical aspects of practice and associated formal processes, earlier in the programme, would be helpful for students in practice. The visitors therefore advise the programme team to continue to monitor the way in which the programme addresses current practice issues concerning safeguarding of service users and the wider public.

Margaret Hanson
Karen Harrison