

**Education Committee**  
**Wednesday, 11 October 2007**  
**at 10.15 a.m.**

**Fourth floor meeting room**

**Members**

Paul Cook

David Herbert

Edward Attenborough

Lesley Kant

Mabel Slater

Denis Toppin

Michael Martin

**Staff attending for all or part of the meeting**

Ewen Macleod

Moragh Loose

Paul Feeney

Pravat Bhattacharyya

Stephanie Lenn

Stephen Dennison

Unnati Negi

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Barry Cockcroft, Denis Toppin and Hew Mathewson.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the Education Committee held on 11 July 2007 were approved subject to amendments to paragraphs 3a and 9a-b, as follows.

Replacement of paragraph 3a with the following content: The Committee was divided as to whether to inspect the infection control facilities at all the other dental schools. It was felt by some members of the Committee that until the Department of Health (DOH) produced their guidelines further inspections should not be held. A vote was taken and it was decided not to inspect the other dental schools until the DOH guidelines were published. When the DOH guidelines were published the matter of inspection would be considered again.

Amendment of 9a and b to add: Lesley Kant drew the Committee's attention to the report's recommendation to the GDC to undertake further work in relation to initial and postgraduate training in implant dentistry and the grave concerns expressed by the inspection team over standards in this area.

Following considerable discussion Duncan Rudkin stated that this was a matter that could be taken on board by the Scope of Practice Working Group.

Minutes of the special teleconference meeting of 7 September 2007 were approved.

**3. Matters arising**

**Meeting of 11 July**

- a) ***Minute 13 – Revised DCP programme submission guidance***

The paper was approved. It was agreed that David Herbert would supply a revised wording and structure graded A - E for the decision table in Appendix 3 prior to issue externally.

**b) Minute 15 - Verbal update on the GDC and COPDEND meeting of 1 June 2007**

It was reported that a meeting had been held on 25 September with Committee of Postgraduate Dental Deans (COPDEND) to discuss the proposed Memorandum of Understanding.

**Items for discussion**

**4. Committee process for urgent items between scheduled meetings**

It was agreed that Chair's action should govern the decision on unscheduled meetings.

**5. Student Fitness to Practise**

It was agreed that a staff member should attend the Registration Committee on behalf of the Education Committee, since Registration Committee was to discuss student registration at its next meeting.

The Committee did not support the introduction of student registration and agreed that the General Medical Council (GMC) approach to student fitness to practise (FtP) issues was of interest.

It was agreed that more guidance on FtP processes should be provided to the education provider and that student FtP issues were best dealt with by the school. The GDC should also tighten up the process by which providers "sign off" newly-qualified students as being fit for registration.

**6. Specialist Dentist Education Board (SDEB) – progress report**

Minutes for the meetings held on 4 July and 3 September had been circulated.

The draft curriculum for special care dentistry was discussed and it was agreed that the curriculum should return to the Education Committee for final approval.

The Committee supported the direction of travel of the SDEB.

**7. Options on additional qualifications**

The Committee decided to make a recommendation to Council to pursue Option 2 of the paper, which was to proceed with abolition of the current policy.

The principles for future policy development in this area were agreed subject to amendment of paragraph 27a to end at "benefit to the public".

**8. DCP programme submissions – seeking provisional approval**

**a) *University of Sheffield – Certificate in Higher Education in Clinical Dental Technology***

Decision C: qualified rejection

The Committee requested further detail and clarification, as follows:

- a detailed mapping of the curriculum to GDC requirements
- a matching of the contact hours to Developing the Dental Team (DDT)
- the rigour of quality assurance of the outreach framework
- proposed staff numbers and their supervision

- a full explanation of the supervision of clinical training

A further submission was requested and staff will seek Chair's action as to a possible presentation by Sheffield to the Committee.

**b) *University of Warwick – Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy***

Decision A: provisional approval.

**9. Extra skills submissions – seeking provisional approval**

**a) *North Western Deanery Department of Postgraduate Dentistry and Medicine: Additional skills (Fluoride Varnish Application) for Dental Nurses***

Decision A: provisional approval.

It was agreed that all individual fluoride varnish application submissions should continue to be brought to the Committee.

**b) *University of Kent: Prophylaxis and prevention for Dental Nursing***

Decision D: rejection.

It was felt that this submission was currently too close to bringing dental nurses to another registrable category. That situation might change in future, should the Scope of Practice Working Group recommend changes to current policy.

**10. BDS Final examinations**

***Cardiff re-inspection of BDS final examinations, plus observations***

Sufficiency had been granted in 2006. A progress report would be sought in 2008 through the annual monitoring process.

**11. DCP programmes and final examinations – decision on sufficiency**

**a) *Portsmouth University BSc (Hons) in Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy, plus observations***

Decision: Sufficient.

The Committee decided to carry out a further inspection of the final unit assessment in 2008 to confirm that issues raised by the inspectors had been resolved.

**b) *Salford PCT Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy, plus observations***

Mabel Slater declared an interest in this item.

Decision: Sufficient, subject to the school supplying formal observations on the recommendations of the inspectors, for the December meeting of the Committee.

**c) *King's College London Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy, plus observations***

Mabel Slater declared an interest in this item.

Decision: Sufficient, subject to written confirmation from the school that the programme would not recommence until the Committee receives confirmation of adequate staffing levels.

**d) *De Montfort University (DMU) Foundation Degree in Dental Technology delivered by Matthew Boulton College plus observations***

Programme previously approved by Committee in 2006.

The Committee requested that the annual monitoring process of this programme include the full audit trail from DMU to and from the delivering college.

**12. Graduate Entry BDS programmes – decisions on sufficiency**

***King's College London BDS Graduate Entry Programme, plus observations***

Decision: Sufficient, subject to a further visit in September 2008 which would include the induction period for new graduate entrants.

**13. Other inspections**

***King's College London decontamination inspection, plus observations***

The Committee accepted the report and noted the positive improvements at King's College.

**Items for report**

**14. City and Guilds NVQ/VRQ Level 3 in Dental Nursing – minutes from teleconference on 7 September 2007**

It was noted that staff will schedule a meeting with City & Guilds to discuss the implementation of the provisional approval.

**15. New Dental Schools – progress report**

***Peninsula Dental School inspection, plus observations***

Noted. A progress update from the school would be received in December 2007.

**16. Update on appointment of the Overseas Registration Examination Board (OREB) and external examiners**

It was noted that Dr Elizabeth Davenport had been appointed Chairman of the Examination Board. 35 applications for Examiner had been received and would be scrutinised by the recruitment panel.

**17. Update on Strategic Review Group**

The Review group had met on 28 September under the chairmanship of Derek Prentice. Members noted that the work of the Group is focused on an outcomes based guidance document for dentist education providers. The Group would produce an interim report to the Committee in December.

**18. Update on staff changes**

The Committee noted that staffing in relation to DCP policy had been strengthened.

**19. Update on the project for assessment of overseas DCPs for registration**

The Committee received a verbal report on the setting up of a working group to recommend a process for assessment of DCPs from overseas seeking registration.

20. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Education Committee will be held at 10.15 on Thursday 13 December 2007.

The dates proposed for Education Committee meetings in 2008 are 6 or 7 February, 23 April, 17 July, 16 October and 8 December. Dates would be circulated around all members for confirmation.