

**Education Committee**  
**Wednesday, 11 July 2007**  
**at 10.15 a.m.**  
**Bradlaw Suite**

**Members**

Paul Cook

David Herbert	Denis Toppin
Edward Attenborough	Hew Mathewson
Lesley Kant	Mabel Slater
Michael Martin	
Barry Cockcroft	

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

Bernice Ash	Duncan Rudkin
Ewen McLeod	Frances Garratt
Gordon Miles	Paul Feeney
Peter Butler	Pravat Bhattacharyya
Stephanie Lenn	Stephen Dennison
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1. **Apologies for absence**

There were none.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the Education Committee held on 11 April 2007 were approved.

3. **Matters arising**

a) **Minute 5 - BDA A12 update**

Barry Cockcroft explained that the Department of Health had concerns about the content of the BDA A12 advice on decontamination and sterilisation, and would be producing their own guidance on this in the Autumn, together with an audit tool to assist practitioners.

Michael Martin expressed concern that the absence of definitive guidance on decontamination and sterilisation presented a problem for inspections of dental schools, since there was currently no guidance against which to inspect. It was noted that this was not the case in Scotland; the Scottish Dental Advisory Committee had recently produced guidance on decontamination and sterilisation.

After extensive discussion concerning the re-inspection process and possible additional inspections it was agreed on balance that, pending the

publication of the Department of Health guidance, Michael Martin, Andrew Smith and Hew Mathewson would develop a specific questionnaire on decontamination and sterilisation, for sending to the dental schools as part of the annual monitoring exercise.

**b) Minute 11-15 observations on the follow-up inspection of decontamination facilities and teaching at Kings College, London**

Mabel Slater declared an interest in this item, as a member of staff at King's.

The report of the follow-up inspection and observations had been received and final comments from the inspectors were awaited prior to sending the final report to King's.

**c) Minute 26 – update on interim quality assurance (QA) of vocational training (VT) and meeting of Joint Committee of Specialist Training in Dentistry (JCSTD) of 12 June 2007.**

Frances Garratt explained that the issue of whether or not it was feasible and desirable to develop an interim solution to the problem of a lack of quality assurance of vocational training (VT), without prejudice to the Strategic Review, had been discussed with the Committee of Postgraduate Dental Deans and Directors (COPDEND) and the Dentist Education Group (DEG). It was acknowledged that there was a lack of a clear role for the GDC in quality assurance of VT, since VT is an NHS requirement unconnected with the right to remain on register. That situation might change were the GDC to pursue the introduction of a managed entry period of provisional registration, should VT be one of the methods of delivery of that period. It was felt that it was not possible to develop a 'quick fix' solution in isolation from the wider issues of quality assurance that were to feed into the Strategic Review. In relation to this, Duncan Rudkin advised that some concerns had been raised at JCSTD about 'gaps' in quality assurance, and some saw the GDC as the only appropriate body to fill those gaps. That perspective would need to feed into the Strategic Review discussions.

**d) Minute 46 – update on Joint Medical Advisory Committee (JMAC) in July**

Michael Martin updated the Committee on the JMAC meeting which he attended in Edinburgh.

### **Items for discussion**

**4. Progress report on the Strategic Review**

Duncan Rudkin updated the Committee on the first two meetings of the Strategic Review Group which took place on 7 June and 27 June. The Chair of the Group, John Randall, had stepped down. It was agreed that the Chief Executive, the President, and the Chair of the Education Committee would appoint a further lay member to replace John Randall, and it was agreed that Lesley Kant should join the Group. It was agreed that the Group would appoint a Chair from within its own membership and that a lay Chair would be appropriate.

It was agreed that the Group would update the Education Committee on its progress at the next Committee meeting.

**5. Verbal update on post-qualification policy issues**

Frances Garratt gave a brief update on post-qualification policy development, highlighting that Revalidation would be a key issue at the Council retreat in September.

6. **Overseas Registration Examination Board and External examiners**

7. The Committee agreed the recommendations in the paper, subject to the following amendments:

- a) Recommendation 1: an amendment being made to the effect that 'in case of new suppliers being required, the Board will make a recommendation on such an appointment to the Education Committee for approval'.
- b) Recommendation 2: the name being correctly stated (Overseas Registration Examination Board). The Committee discussed the importance of advertising to attract the appropriate candidates for the Board.

8. **To discuss questions raised in Clinical Dental Technician (CDT) Report Observations**

Frances Garratt informed the Committee that the questions raised concerned skills on qualification, and not extra skills, and so could be answered by reference to the current standards guidance and CDT curriculum. She would answer the questions and circulate the responses to the Committee for information

9. **Reports and observations of the following inspections**

***a and b) Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) and University of Warwick implant dentistry programmes***

The reports were noted. The Committee agreed that the phrase

"...to confirm its status as a registrable qualification..." be removed from paragraph one of each report. This was inappropriate, since the inspections had been exploratory, and had not been carried out against criteria based on the existing additional qualifications policy (which in any event has been acknowledged to be flawed and is consequently being reviewed). Subject to this amendment, the reports and the observations would be made available from the GDC website. As a courtesy, the Deans of the relevant schools would be advised of the amendment before publication.

***c) University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) dental school (BDS)***

Michael Martin declared an interest in this item.

The Committee recommended a minor change in wording to paragraph 12 of the report, subject to the approval of the chair of the inspection panel and the institution. The change would be the removal of 'to strive' from the sentence "...The consortium must strive to ensure that all students receive a broad exposure to specialist experience across all dental disciplines throughout their studies..."

***d) Liverpool graduate entry programme***

The Committee noted the observations received from the school. The report and observations would be made available on the GDC website.

e) **KCL Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Therapy**

Mabel Slater advised the Committee that the observations on the report had been delayed as they needed to be approved by the Kings College London Education Committee. Subject to receiving the observations in time, the Committee would consider the report and the observations at the next meeting in October.

10. **Dental Care Professionals programme submissions**

- a) **University of Essex - Foundation Degree in Oral Health Science** The Committee approved the course in principle, subject to further information concerning the University of Essex regulations regarding quality assurance. It was recommended that an early visit to this course should occur.
- b) **Leamington Spa Orthodontic Centre - Orthodontic Therapist course** Specific further information would be sought about the role and procedures of the Royal College of Surgeons in relation to the assessment of the course, and the role of the University of Warwick Medical School in quality assurance. An exploratory visit (*not* an inspection) to the Orthodontic Centre would be organised, since it was an innovative development.
- c) **University of Sheffield - Certificate in Higher Education in Clinical Dental Technology** The Committee expressed the reservations that there was insufficient supervised clinical time of students treating patients on the course and further to this meeting the Chair requested further information.
- d) **UHI Millennium Institute - BSc Oral Health Science** The Committee approved the course in principle, subject to confirmation of which body was awarding the qualification.
- e) **Cardiff University - Certificate of Higher Education in Dental Nursing.** The Committee gave the course provisional approval, subject to inspection.

11. **Dental Care Professionals Extra Skills Submissions**

12. It was noted that the Education Committee's role in considering such submissions was twofold:

Firstly, to determine the nature of the skill to be taught i.e. whether the skill should be regarded as either:

- i) The suitability of the course for delivery of appropriate learning outcomes for that skill.
- ii) a significant additional skill in patient safety terms; and if so, whether it moved the registrant group concerned into another category of registrant.

Secondly, if the skill did move the registrant group into another category of registrant, then the Committee need not consider (iii), below.

- iii) continuing professional development for the registrant group concerned (in which case, approval would not be required).

a) **DLA IDEA - Shade Taking - Subjectivity to Objectivity**

The Committee rejected the submission. The basis for the rejection was as follows. The skill of shade taking amounted to a significant additional skill for the dental technician group, in that dental technicians were not at present trained in their curriculum to carry out clinical work on the patient. In view of this, there were significant omissions in the proposed course content, in particular a need to include some additional training regarding patient care and safety (for example, in relation to allergy testing).

**b) Barnfield College Luton/University of Bedfordshire - Foundation Degree in Dental Nursing**

The Committee rejected the submission on the basis that the skills proposed represented a move from the dental nurse to the dental hygienist DCP category.

13. Staff present raised concerns about the current system for primary and extra skills DCP submissions and the degree to which the information we had requested from course providers and assessors was fit for purpose in determining the questions under consideration. Staff would consider this question in advance of the Education Committee's next meeting.

**Items for report**

14. **Manchester Metropolitan University – confirmation of Medical Emergencies training for students**

Confirmation had been received from Manchester Metropolitan University that most students had now completed the medical emergencies training. The Committee found the programmes to be sufficient for registration, only for those who had successfully completed the training.

15. **Verbal update on the GDC and COPDEND meeting of 1 June 2007**

Frances Garratt explained that she was the Relationship Manager for COPDEND, and would be taking forward work on developing a Memorandum of Understanding with nominated COPDEND members.

16. **Verbal update on the first meeting of the SDEB**

The Board held its first meeting on 4 July, where it began to scope its work. Minutes will be available in due course. The Board will next meet in September.

**Any other business**

Mabel Slater gave a brief update to the Committee on a meeting she attended along with Bernice Ash with Skills for Health on 19 June 2007. It was explained that the relationship with Skills for Health was now to be managed by staff, with member input to be sought where needed.

**Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Education Committee will be held on Wednesday 11 October 2007 at 10.15 am