

Education Committee

13 December 2007

Fourth Floor Meeting Room

Members Present

Paul Cook

Barry Cockcroft

David Herbert

Denis Toppin

Edward Attenborough

Hew Mathewson

Lesley Kant

Mabel Slater

Michael Martin

By Invitation:

Item 3 : Derek Prentice

(Chair, Strategic Review Group)

Item 11 : Tony Johnson

(University of Sheffield)

Item 11 : Christopher Stokes

(University of Sheffield)

Minutes

Apologies for absence

1. All members were present. Barry Cockcroft had to leave the meeting early owing to other commitments.

Minutes of previous meetings

Minute 2: Minutes of previous meeting

2. Lesley Kant sought clarification whether or not the Scope of Practice Working Group would be looking at the issue of standards of postgraduate training in implant dentistry, as mentioned in the amendments to Items 9 a and b of the 11 July 2007 minutes of the Education Committee.
3. It was agreed that the issue of whether or not, and if so how, to regulate training in areas such as implantology was now being addressed by the Strategic Review Group. However, a draft policy position on implantology, pending the findings in the longer term of the Strategic Review Group, would be drafted and included as an agenda item for the next Education Committee which will be held on 7 February 2008.

Minute 12: Graduate Entry BDS programme:

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

4. Mabel Slater declared an interest in this item as an employee of King's College Dental School.
5. The Committee reviewed its decision to re-inspect the College in 2008 to include the induction period for new graduate entrants.
6. The Committee felt that it was appropriate to re-inspect the course and that this would be done at a time coinciding with the end of the three-week induction course, to avoid two separate inspections.
7. It was also agreed that the re-inspection would be 'lighter touch' than the May 2007 inspection, with two inspectors plus one GDC staff member in attendance.

Items for action

Strategic Review Group Interim report

8. Derek Prentice presented the Strategic Review Group's interim report to the Committee. The Group was addressing its remit in two phases; the pre-qualification stage of education (Phase 1) and the post-qualification stage (Phase 2). Its interim report was focussed on its findings in relation to Phase 1.
9. The Committee welcomed the Interim report and the work done by the SRG so far. It supported the outcomes-based approach proposed by the Review Group in principle in relation to pre-qualification education, whilst recognising that its implementation would require careful discussion.
10. In view of the outcomes-based approach, the report suggested three options for quality assurance as a) examination for entry to the register b) reliance on institutional QA and c) revised GDC QA process. The Committee felt that it would be helpful if the Review Group were to recommend a particular option in its final report.

Specialist List curricula guidance and update

11. Ewen Macleod updated the Committee on the work of the Specialist Dentist Education Board (SDEB).
12. The Board had been developing guidance on curriculum development and it was agreed that the draft guidance would be circulated to the Committee via e-mail for comments. Future meetings of the SDEB would be scheduled so that they were held sufficiently in advance of Education Committee meetings to enable such documents to be presented at, rather than between, Committee meetings.

Belfast – sufficiency decision required

13. The programme was found sufficient.

Salford – observations for information only (found sufficient at the last meeting)

14. The observations were noted.

Dundee – sufficiency decision required

15. The Committee found the programme sufficient.
16. This decision was taken by vote (5 members for and 3 against). The issue of shortage of paediatric patients will be followed up with the school.

Wider issues around inspections process

17. The Committee discussed the wider issue of inspections and how they are conducted. It was suggested that, pending the implementation of the findings of the Strategic Review, some improvements to the existing process of inspections could be made.
18. The Committee agreed that members would share their suggestions on improving the current inspection system. Staff would present a paper to the next Education Committee meeting on 7 February based on the inputs received from members and staff advice on what was feasible, suggesting a way forward during the interim period.
19. It was agreed that honorifics and educational qualifications of inspectors should not be included in inspection reports.
20. It was also agreed that unless there was an extremely persuasive reason why an inspection could not feasibly take place on the dates for inspection identified by Quality Assurance team staff, dental schools were required to accept them.

Update on Peninsula and Aberdeen

21. Preliminary details of a proposal for a new dental school to be based in Aberdeen were provided. The Graduate Entry BDS programme was scheduled to commence from September 2008.
22. An update was received for Peninsula Dental School describing the student intake figures and the progress of new build.

Cardiff Orthodontic Therapy – provisional approval sought

23. Outcome – decision A: provisional approval.

Edinburgh and NHS Education for Scotland Orthodontic Therapy – provisional approval sought

24. Denis Toppin declared an interest in this item as an employee of NHS Education for Scotland.
25. Outcome – decision A: provisional approval.

Sheffield Clinical Dental Technicians (CDT) – provisional approval sought

26. Outcome – decision C: qualified rejection.
27. The proposal was deemed as being very far from being able to meet the outcomes outlined in Developing the Dental Team (DDT), in terms of clinical hours to satisfy the Committee that the required competencies will be achieved.
28. The Committee requested further detail and clarification, in the following areas:

- Clinical training time to meet the outcomes outlined in the DDT
 - Mapping of the outreach component of the programme to the DDT
 - The rigour of quality assurance of the outreach framework
 - A full explanation of the supervision of clinical training
 - Details of how team working will be built into the curriculum
29. As CDT training is currently not available in the UK the Committee stressed the importance of getting the first UK CDT programme right as it will be the benchmark. The Committee discussed in some length the need for adequate clinical time to be incorporated into CDT programmes to ensure competence in clinical areas. The DDT lists learning outcomes from page 59 onward; the Committee reinforced the importance of any submission demonstrating how they will meet these outcomes.
 30. The Committee further agreed the importance of any submission for a CDT programme demonstrating how team working will be incorporated into the curriculum.
 31. The Committee thanked Dr Tony Johnson and Dr Christopher Stokes for attending and commended the hard work they had put into their submission. The Committee acknowledged that Sheffield University were in unchartered territory and understood the difficulties involved as a result.

Items for report

QAA meeting held on 1 October 2007

32. Pravat Bhattacharyya updated the Committee on a QAA (Quality Assurance Agency) meeting held on 1 October 2007, which discussed the possible implications of the Bologna process on medical, dental and veterinary science programmes.
33. These implications included the issue of mobility of students between pre-registration programmes in the EEA, the diversity of undergraduate curricula in the member states and aspects relating to registration.

Annual monitoring of dental schools

34. Pravat Bhattacharyya updated the Committee on the 2007 annual monitoring of dental schools.
35. It was agreed to write to some schools on specific issues. Details of the assessment of students' competence in sterilisation and decontamination would be sought from Belfast, Leeds, Newcastle, QMUL and Sheffield.

The future of the Dentist and DCP Education Groups

36. The Committee discussed whether these groups continued to be the most appropriate mechanism for consulting with stakeholders, given that the organisations represented on both groups were now being consulted with regularly through the relationship management process.
37. It was felt that an approach of using workshops at suitable points for consultation would be more appropriate and productive. Staff would write to the members of each group seeking views.

Any other business

Post- qualification strategy: draft call for ideas

38. Frances Garratt explained that the Strategic Review Group was now moving into its second phase, and would be considering and making recommendations on post-qualification strategy.
39. Frances asked the Committee to consider whether, in the forthcoming consultation on whether or not to have an additional qualifications policy, that narrow issue should be set within the wider strategic context.
40. The Committee felt that, while this would be desirable, there was expectation of a narrower focus for the additional qualifications consultation. It would consider a draft consultation document at its next meeting on 7 February. The wider strategic issues would be addressed and recommendations made by the Strategic Review Group in its final report in April 2008.

Chair of Education Committee

41. The Chair invited the Committee members to consider whether an election to the position of Chair was required to cover the remaining period of the current Council's term. The Committee agreed that Paul Cook should continue as the Chair until the end of the current Council.

Date of next meeting

42. The next meeting of the Education Committee would be held on Thursday, 7 February 2008 at 10.15 am, in the Baker Street meeting room (NB: members are asked to note that the location has been changed since this minute was written, to: Martin Room, 5th Floor, RIBA, Portland Place – note of change added 28 January 2008).