Quality Assurance of Education and Training: a report on recent decisions by the Registrar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose of paper</th>
<th>To report on decisions taken by the Registrar under delegated powers relating to quality assurance of education and training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>For noting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Corporate Strategy 2016-19 | Professionals – Objective 2: To help ensure that dental professionals are properly trained in the skills necessary to practise dentistry safely from the outset.  
Patients – Objective 2: To promote and enforce standards that take full account of patients’ needs and legitimate expectations. |
| Business Plan 2016 | Professionals – Objective 2: Inspect education and training institutions to provide assurance that they are delivering the standards that will ensure dental graduates are fit to be registered. |
| Decision Trail   | December 2011 Council  
The Council made the General Dental Council (Delegation of Functions) Rules 2011. The rules gave effect to the Council’s decision to delegate decisions relating to the quality assurance of dental education to the Chief Executive and Registrar. |
| Recommendations   | Council is asked to:  
• Note this report |
| Authorship of paper and further information | Peter Butler, Quality Assurance Operations Manager (on behalf of the Registrar)  
T: 020 7167 6016  
E: pbutler@gdc-uk.org |
Executive summary

1. This paper reports on decisions taken by the Registrar under delegated powers relating to quality assurance of education and training.
2. Since the Council last received a report of the quality assurance decisions, on 6 October 2016, the Registrar has taken one decision to agree continuing sufficiency for a BDS programme and seven decisions to agree continuing approval of Dental Care Professional (DCP) programmes. In addition, the Registrar has taken one decision regarding a submission for new programme. All decisions were made with reference to the Standards for Education.

New Programme Submissions

Health Education Kent Surrey Sussex (HEKSS) and the Faculty of General Dental Practice (FGDP) of the Royal College of Surgeons of England; Diploma in Clinical Dental Technology

Decisions

3. Based on a summary of two Quality Assurance (QA) inspectors’ independent evaluations of a proposal for a new two-year part-time Diploma in Clinical Dental Technology offered by Health Education England (Kent, Surrey and Sussex) (HEKSS), in November 2016 the Registrar accepted the inspectors’ recommendation that, as outlined, the qualification was likely to meet the Standards for Education.

Background

4. A submission for a new clinical dental technology programme from HEKSS was originally received in March 2016.
5. The submission was first reviewed by the QA Team and forwarded to two QA inspectors for independent evaluation of whether the qualification, as outlined, would be likely to meet the Standards for Education. The QA inspectors required additional information from the provider, which was requested and provided.

Next steps

6. A decision on approval of the qualification for the purposes of registration as a clinical dental technician will be made following an inspection of the programme in May 2018 and the final examinations in January 2019.

Decisions relating to sufficiency of BDS programmes for registration

Aberdeen Dental School (ADS); Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS)

Decision

7. A re-inspection of the Aberdeen Dental School final examinations was recommended in the 2015 inspection report. The re-inspection took place in May 2016. Based on the inspectors’ report and the observations on the content of the report from the provider, in March 2017, the Registrar found the instruction offered on the programme to be sufficient to enable the students who were awarded the BDS eligibility to apply for registration as a dentist.

Background

8. The purpose of this re-inspection was to evaluate changes made to assessments and to review the progress made against other actions contained in previous inspection reports.
9. The inspection report and the provider’s observations on the content of the report have been published on the GDC website.
**Next steps**

10. The GDC QA team will monitor the actions required of the provider through the 2017 annual monitoring process.

**Decisions relating to approval of DCP programmes for registration**

**University of Dundee; Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Oral Health Sciences**

**Decision**

11. Based on the inspectors’ report and the observations on the content of the report from the provider, in March 2017 the Registrar found the instruction offered on the programme to be sufficient to enable the current cohort of students only who were awarded the BSc eligibility to apply for registration as a dental hygienist/therapist.

**Background**

12. An inspection of the University of Dundee BSc in Oral Health Science took place in February, April and June 2016. The inspection found serious issues with the clinical experience of the students undertaking the programme as well as with the recording and monitoring of this experience. The report recommended that the current cohort had achieved the level of a safe beginner and could, therefore, apply to the GDC register. The report further recommended that a re-inspection should take place to assess progress on the actions set out in the report and to enable a decision on sufficiency for future cohorts.

13. The inspection report and the provider’s observations on the content of the report have been published on the GDC website.

**Next steps**

14. The GDC QA team will monitor the actions required of the provider through the re-inspection report and via the annual monitoring process.

**Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA); Scottish VQ 3 in Dental Nursing at SCQF Level 7**

**Decision**

15. Based on the inspectors’ report and the observations on the content of the report from the provider, in March 2017 the Registrar found the instruction offered on the programmes to be sufficient to enable students awarded the qualification eligibility to apply for registration as a dental nurse.

**Background**

16. The inspection took place in April and June 2016. The SVQ 3 in Dental Nursing at SCQF Level 7 is currently delivered by fifteen centres across Scotland. The panel of inspectors visited four of these centres to sample how the programme was delivered across a variety of education providers. The strengths of the programme were noted by the panel as being the level of collaborative working that occurs between SQA and the various centres. Areas for improvement identified include the collection of patient feedback and external oversight of summative assessments.

17. The inspection report and the provider’s observations on the content of the report have been published on the GDC website.

**Next steps**

18. The GDC QA team will monitor the actions required of the provider through the 2017 annual monitoring process.
King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust; Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy awarded by the Royal College of Surgeons of England

Decision

19. Based on the inspectors’ report and the observations on the content of the report from the provider, in March 2017 the Registrar found the instruction offered on the programme to be sufficient to enable students awarded the Diploma eligibility to apply for registration as dental hygienists and dental therapists.

Background

20. An inspection of the King’s Diploma programme took place in February and June 2016. The final examination is offered by the Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCS). The programme is 2.5 years full-time study in length. The inspection found this to be a well organised and clearly structured programme. However, some aspects of the programme were identified as requiring improvement. These included the need for further investment in information technology and increasing experience of working with other members of the dental team.

21. The inspection report and the provider’s observations on the content of the report have been published on the GDC website.

Next steps

22. The GDC QA team will monitor the actions required of the provider through the 2017 annual monitoring process.

University of Birmingham / Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust; BSc in Dental Hygiene and Therapy and Diploma in Dental Hygiene

Decision

23. Based on the inspectors’ report and the observations on the content of the report from the provider, in March 2017 the Registrar found the instruction offered on the programme to be sufficient to enable the students who were awarded the BSc eligibility to apply for registration as a dental hygienist and dental therapist and those that were awarded the Diploma eligibility to apply for registration as a dental hygienist.

Background

24. An inspection of the University of Birmingham BSc in Dental Hygiene and Therapy and the Diploma in Dental Hygiene programmes took place in April and June 2016. The inspectors found the programmes provided students with a sound educational experience and were particularly impressed with the pre-clinical training provided as part of the programme. The major issue facing the programme, which was noted in the report, relates to access to patients – particularly paediatric patients.

25. The inspection report and the provider’s observations on the content of the report have been published on the GDC website.

Next steps

26. The GDC QA team will monitor the actions required of the provider through the 2017 annual monitoring process.
**Edinburgh College AND Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA); Diploma in Dental Technology**

**Decision**

27. Based on the inspectors’ report and the observations on the content of the report from the provider, in May 2017 the Registrar found the instruction offered on the programme to be sufficient to enable the current students awarded the Diploma eligibility to apply for registration as a dental technician. The programme will not be offered in the future.

**Background**

28. The College Diploma is a combination of the SQA Higher National Certificate (HNC), several SQA National Certificate (NC) units and some additional College training. Students graduate with both the Diploma the qualification leading to registration, and the SQA HNC.

29. An inspection of the Diploma programme took place in March and April 2016. The inspectors found that the qualification did not cover the full range of dental technology learning outcomes in *Preparing for Practice* and consequently, the College was required to develop additional training for the final year students. The College deferred graduation until the additional training has been completed and assessed as satisfactory by the inspectors and GDC Registrar.

30. The inspection report and the provider’s observations on the content of the report have been published on the GDC website.

**Greater Manchester School for DCPs and the Royal College of Surgeons of England; Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy**

**Decision**

31. Based on the inspectors’ report and the observations on the content of the report from the provider, in March 2017 the Registrar found the instruction offered on the programme to be sufficient to enable the students who were awarded the Diploma eligibility to apply for registration as a dental hygienist and dental therapist.

**Background**

32. An inspection of the Royal College of Surgeons Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy award delivered by the Greater Manchester School for DCPs took place in February and March 2016. The inspectors noted that the programme, in its current format, was scheduled to run until 2019 due to a decision of the Royal College of Surgeons of England to cease offering this award after this time.

33. The inspection report and the provider’s observations on the content of the report have been published on the GDC website.

**Next steps**

34. The GDC QA team will monitor the actions required of the provider through the 2017 annual monitoring process.

**Cardiff University; Certificate of Higher Education in Dental Nursing**

**Decision**

35. Based on the inspectors’ report and the observations on the content of the report from the provider, in December 2016 the Registrar found the instruction offered on the programme to be sufficient to enable the students who were awarded the Certificate eligibility to apply for registration as a dental nurse.
Background

36. An inspection of the Certificate of Higher Education in Dental Nursing awarded by Cardiff University took place in March 2016. This two-year part-time programme replaced a one-year programme and the inspectors found many significant improvements over the previous course, including much improved support structures between the programme leads, the College and the University. Other positive aspects of the programme included effective teaching, engaging placements and enthusiastic students.

37. The inspection report and the provider’s observations on the content of the report have been published on the GDC website.

Next steps

The GDC QA team will monitor the actions required of the provider through the 2017 annual monitoring process.

Recommendations

38. The Council is asked to:
   
   • Note this paper