

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

Purpose of paper	To report on decisions taken by the Registrar under delegated powers relating to quality assurance of education and training
Status	Public session
Action	For noting
Corporate Strategy 2016-19	<p>Professionals – Objective 2: To help ensure that dental professionals are properly trained in the skills necessary to practise dentistry safely from the outset.</p> <p>Patients – Objective 2: To promote and enforce standards that take full account of patients’ needs and legitimate expectations.</p>
Business Plan 2018	Not applicable
Decision Trail	<p>December 2011 Council</p> <p>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.</p>
Recommendations	<p>Council is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note this report
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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 26 July 2017, the Registrar has taken four decisions to agree approval or continuing approval of Dental Care Professional (DCP) programmes. In addition, the Registrar has taken four decisions regarding submissions for new DCP programmes. All decisions were made with reference to the *Standards for Education*.

New Programme Submissions

University of Leeds; BSc (Hons) Dental Therapy and Dental Hygiene

Decision

3. Based on a summary of two Quality Assurance (QA) inspectors' independent evaluations of a proposal for a new three-year BSc (Hons) in Dental Therapy and Dental Hygiene offered by the University of Leeds, in August 2017 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 BSc Dental Therapy and Dental Hygiene programme from the University of Leeds was originally received in April 2017.
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*. This qualification also allows students meeting specific criteria to exit at level 2 with a Higher Education Diploma in Dental Hygiene.

Next steps

6. A decision on approval of the qualification for the purposes of registration as a dental hygienist and/or dental therapist will be made following an inspection of the programme and final examinations during the 2019/20 academic year. The Registrar agreed that certain aspects of the programme, identified by the inspectors who assessed the submission, should be monitored in advance to reduce the risk of concerns occurring during the first inspection.

Open University; FdSc in Dental Technology delivered by City of Liverpool College

Decision

7. Based on a summary of two QA inspectors' independent evaluations of a proposal for a new three-year part-time Foundation Degree in Dental Technology offered by the City of Liverpool College and awarded by the Open University, in August 2017 the Registrar accepted the inspectors' recommendation that, as outlined, the qualification was likely to meet the *Standards for Education*.

Background

8. A submission for a new Foundation Degree delivered by the City of Liverpool College and awarded by the Open University was received in July 2017.
9. 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*.

Next steps

10. A decision on approval of the qualification for the purposes of registration as a dental hygienist and/or dental therapist will be made following an inspection of the programme and final examinations during the 2019/20 academic year. The Registrar agreed that certain aspects of the programme, identified by the inspectors who assessed the submission, should be monitored in advance to reduce the risk of concerns occurring during the first inspection.

University of Worcester; FdSc Dental Technology delivered by Birmingham Metropolitan College

Decision

11. Based on a summary of two QA inspectors' independent evaluations of a proposal for a new two-year full-time (three-year part-time/blended learning) Foundation Degree in Dental Technology offered by Birmingham Metropolitan College and awarded by the University of Worcester, in August 2017 the Registrar accepted the inspectors' recommendation that, as outlined, the qualification was likely to meet the *Standards for Education*.

Background

12. A submission for a new Foundation Degree delivered by Birmingham Metropolitan College and awarded by the University of Worcester was received in July 2017.
13. 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*.

Next steps

A decision on approval of the qualification for the purposes of registration as a dental hygienist and/or dental therapist will be made following an inspection of the programme and final examinations during the 2018/19 academic year.

Barnet and Southgate College; Foundation Degree in Dental Technology awarded by Bolton University

Decision

14. Based on a summary of two QA inspectors' independent evaluations of a proposal for a new three-year full-time Foundation Degree in Dental Technology offered by Barnet and Southgate College and awarded by Bolton University, in October 2017 the Registrar accepted the inspectors' recommendation that, as outlined, the qualification was likely to meet the *Standards for Education*.

Background

15. This submission for a new Foundation Degree in Dental Technology programme was originally received in October 2016.
16. 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

17. A decision on approval of the qualification for the purposes of registration as a dental technician will be made following an inspection of the programme and final examinations during the 2019/20 academic year. The Registrar agreed that certain aspects of the programme, identified

by the inspectors who assessed the submission, should be monitored in advance to reduce the risk of concerns occurring during the first inspection.

Decisions relating to approval of DCP programmes for registration

Queen Mary University of London (QMUL); Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Therapy

Decision

18. Based on the inspectors' report and the observations on the content of the report from the provider, in August 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 a dental hygienist/therapist.

Background

19. An inspection of the QMUL Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Therapy took place in May and December 2016. The inspectors found that a recent refurbishment of facilities available to students was of real benefit to their learning experience coupled with excellent opportunities to integrate with BDS students. Areas identified for improvement included the need to formalise the governance of student monitoring as well as progression and sign-up procedures.
20. The inspection report and the provider's observations on the content of the report have been published on the GDC website.

Next steps

21. The GDC QA team will monitor the actions required of the provider via the annual monitoring process.

NCFE CACHE; Level 3 Diploma in the Principles and Practice of Dental Nursing

Decision

22. Based on the inspectors' report and the observations on the content of the report from the provider, in October 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 a dental nurse.

Background

23. The main programme inspection of the NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in the Principles and Practice of Dental Nursing took place in May 2016. A series of inspections to centres delivering the qualification took place in June 2016 and February and March 2017. The inspectors found there were strong measures in place to ensure consistency of delivery across centres but that the programme lacked external oversight.
24. The inspection report and the provider's observations on the content of the report have been published on the GDC website.

Next steps

25. The GDC QA team will monitor the actions required of the provider via the annual monitoring process.

Plymouth University Peninsula School of Dentistry; BSc (Hons) Dental Therapy and Dental Hygiene

Decision

26. Based on the inspectors' report and the observations on the content of the report from the provider, in October 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 a dental hygienist/therapist.

Background

27. An inspection of the Plymouth University Peninsula School of Dentistry BSc(Hons) in Dental Therapy and Dental Hygiene took place in January, May and June 2017. The inspectors found this programme to be of a very high standard offering excellent training opportunities and wide-ranging patient access.
28. The inspection report and the provider's observations on the content of the report have been published on the GDC website.

Next steps

29. The GDC QA team will monitor the actions required of the provider via the annual monitoring process.

Sheffield University; Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy

Decision

30. Based on the inspectors' report and the observations on the content of the report from the provider, in December 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 a dental hygienist/therapist.

Background

31. An inspection of the Sheffield University Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Therapy took place in February and June 2017. The inspectors found this programme was being delivered to a very high standard and producing well-prepared graduates. All Standards for Education were being met.
32. The inspection report and the provider's observations on the content of the report have been published on the GDC website.

Next steps

33. The GDC QA team will monitor the actions required of the provider via the annual monitoring process.

Other inspection/QA activity

BPP University; Bachelor in Dental and Oral Sciences (Hons) (BDOS)

34. The submission for this qualification was accepted by the Registrar in October 2016.
35. Due to risks identified by QA inspectors when considering the BDOS programme submission, in addition to an increase in the size of the cohort to that proposed in the submission, the GDC Registrar accepted the inspectors' recommendation that the GDC quality assurance team should undertake an inspection visit toward the end of the first year to assess the progress made and that the assurances provided by the University had been realised.

36. Following the inspection, which took place in July 2017, the inspection team prepared preliminary findings, which were shared with the University. The preliminary findings set out the need for urgent action by the University.
37. On 1 September 2017, BPP University informed the GDC that they intended to inform students that the BDOS programme was closing with immediate effect.
38. The GDC has worked with BPP University and other UK training providers to assist the students of this programme to transfer to other courses to complete their training to become dental hygienists and dental therapists.

Recommendations

39. The Council is asked to:
 - Note this paper