Health Professions Council

Visitors' report

Name of education provider	University of Portsmouth
Name and titles of programme(s)	Diploma in Higher Education Operating Department Practice
Mode of Delivery (FT/PT)	Full time
Date of Visit	18th and 19th April 2007
Proposed date of approval to commence	September 2007
Name of HPC visitors attending (including member type and professional area)	Julie Weir (RODP) Alan Mount
HPC Executive officer(s) (in attendance)	Tracey Samuel-Smith Osama Ammar (Observing)
Joint panel members in attendance (name and delegation):	Nick Clark (CODP) Stephen Arkle (Chair) Isobel Ryder (QA) Liz Parton (QA) Avril Kudzi (Secretary)

Scope of visit *(please tick)*

New programme	☐
Major change to existing programme	☐
Visit initiated through Annual Monitoring	☐
New Profession	☒

Confirmation of meetings held

	Yes	No	N/A
Senior personnel of provider with responsibility for resources for the programme	☒	☐	☐
Programme team	☒	☐	☐
Placements providers and educators	☒	☐	☐
Students (current or past as appropriate)	☒	☐	☐

Confirmation of facilities inspected

	Yes	No	N/A
Library learning centre	☒	☐	☐
IT facilities	☒	☐	☐
Specialist teaching accommodation	☒	☐	☐

Confirmation that particular requirements/specific instructions (if any) of the Education and Training Committee that have been explored e.g. specific aspects arising from annual monitoring reports.

Requirement (please insert detail)	Yes	No	N/A
1	☐	☐	☒
2	☐	☐	☒
3	☐	☐	☒

Proposed student cohort intake number please state	**30**

The following summarises the key outcomes of the Approvals event and provides reasons for the decision.

CONDITIONS

SET 2. *Programme admissions*

The admission procedures must:

2.1 give both the applicant and the education provider the information they require to make an informed choice about whether to make, or take up the offer of a place on a programme

and

2.2 apply selection and entry criteria, including:
2.2.5 accreditation of Prior Learning and other inclusion mechanisms

Condition: The programme team must redraft and resubmit advertising materials for the programme to ensure the entry criteria on the website provides clear information for students wishing to apply for the programme.

Reason: Currently the website indicates that there are additional entry criteria for mature students. The programme documentation submitted for approval does not include the additional entry requirement for mature students. Accordingly the website requires updating to ensure this information should is removed.

SET 5. *Practice placements standards*

5.7 Students and practice placement educators must be fully prepared for placement which will include information about and understanding of the following:
5.7.3 expectations of professional conduct;

Condition: The programme team must redraft and resubmit the unit descriptors for Developing Professional Practice and Professional Practice to include references to HPC's <u>Standards</u> of Conduct, Performance and Ethics.

Reason: Currently the unit descriptors refer students to the <u>Code</u> of Conduct, Performance and Ethics. To ensure students are able to locate the correct documentation on HPC's website, the unit descriptors must be updated.

Deadline for conditions to be met: 31st May 2007
Expected date visitors' report submitted to Panel for approval: 5th July 2007
Expected date programme submitted to Panel for approval: 5th July 2007

RECOMMENDATIONS

SET 3. *Programme management and resource standards*

3.10 A system of academic and pastoral student support must be in place.

Recommendation: The programme team should consider reviewing the Student Handbook – Course Supplement to provide students with information on the academic and pastoral support they can expect to receive during the course of the programme.

Reason: Information about academic and student support is currently provided in the unit descriptors. It is recommended that this information is replicated in the Student Handbook – Course Supplement to provide students with another source of information.

SET 6. *Assessment standards*

6.4 The measurement of student performance and progression must be an integral part of the wider process of monitoring and evaluation, and use objective criteria.

and

6.7 Assessment regulations clearly specify requirements:
6.7.1 for student progression and achievement within the programme;

Recommendation: The programme team should consider reviewing the definition of student misconduct, which is contained in the Student Handbook – Course Supplement, to take account of students whose entry to a professional register is not automatic upon graduation.

Reason: In practice the misconduct policy applies adequately to students on the ODP programme. However the Visitors felt that currently a student studying to become an Operating Department Practitioner could argue that the definition of misconduct does not apply to them. This is because the definition, by explicitly and exclusively referencing students on programmes that lead automatically to registration, may not cover students on the ODP programme who must apply for registration upon successful completion of the programme.

Commendations

The visitors would like to commend the programme team for their innovative use of technology to support student learning, particularly the voting facility.

The visitors would like to commend the programme team for the standard of information provided to students regarding the placement providers.

The nature and quality of instruction and facilities meets the Standards of Education and Training.

We recommend to the Education and Training Committee of the HPC that they approve this programme (subject to any conditions being met).

Visitors' signatures:

Alan Mount

Julie Weir

Date: 26th April 2007