

**REPORT OF THE RECOGNITION VISIT BY THE GCC PANEL TO THE McTIMONEY
COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC (MANCHESTER CAMPUS)
3 DECEMBER 2013**

Panel

Carl Stychin (Lay member of the GCC Education Committee) – Chair
Penny Bance (GCC Director of Education, Registration and Standards)
Barry Mitchell (Lay member of the GCC Education Committee)
Mark Webster (Chiropractic member of the GCC Education Committee)
Cliff Hancock (Quality Assurance in HE adviser to the GCC) – Secretary

Introduction

1. The General Chiropractic Council (GCC) had received a submission from the McTimoney College of Chiropractic (MCC) for recognition of a programme leading to a registerable qualification. The programme is formulated as an integrated, undergraduate Masters (M. Chiro.) consisting of five years of part-time study based at the MCC/BPP campus in Manchester. The content of the programme is the same as that for the corresponding programme at the MCC, Abingdon campus. This latter programme was recognised by the GCC following a visit there in September 2013.

2. After receipt of documentation setting out how the programme would be delivered on the Manchester campus the GCC Education Committee assembled a panel for a visit and asked MCC to provide supplementary information prior to the recognition visit. On the basis of all of this information provided the formal recognition visit took place on 3 December 2013.

The visit process and result

3. The panel met with a range of MCC staff, prospective students of the Manchester programme, current students from the Abingdon programmes (both four year full-time and five year part-time) and also colleagues from BPP University. There was full and open interaction between the panel and all groups that it met.

4. The panel noted that, since the programme content was the same as that for the corresponding programme at Abingdon, there was no need to revisit issues of programme content and how these met the GCC criteria for recognition. However, delivery in a new location would be likely to raise issues around resources and support mechanisms so conversations in meetings centred on:

- a. Student support mechanisms (library provision, academic and pastoral support) and the quality of the student experience
- b. Staffing resources and the issue of possible over-stretch from delivery on two campuses
- c. The organisation of teaching sessions
- d. The financial model and business plan for the programme and its sustainability over the medium term
- e. The involvement of patients and carers in the design, delivery and assessment of the programme
- f. How a multi-disciplinary approach could be achieved on the new campus
- g. The facilities of the student clinic and how a patient base would be established

h. How a research culture could be engendered on the new campus so that research would inform teaching

5. The panel was given a guided tour of the BPP Manchester campus and, in particular, the dedicated Chiropractic space recently identified was seen. Given the small cohorts projected in the first few years of the programme the Panel thought that the dedicated teaching space and support resources for the programme would be adequate for its effective delivery. The space allocated for the student clinic would form a very good clinic environment given some further resource (already identified) for its refurbishment. There were plans in place to utilise the programme leader's clinic patient base as the foundation for the student clinic. Further developments when required at the later stages of the programme would follow from the marketing of the clinic in and around central Manchester where there is felt to be an unmet demand for Chiropractic care (there are already several chiropractic clinics established in and around central Manchester). Once this enhanced clinic base has been established the mechanism for the involvement of patients and carers in the programme would follow the model established on the Abingdon campus.

6. The library facilities for Chiropractic were very small although the Panel was assured that the relevant books for the first year of the programme were on order and would be in place for the start of delivery of the programme in January 2014. It was also emphasised that there would be a facility for students to be able to borrow books from the Abingdon campus library via an inter-campus delivery facility maintained by BPP.

7. The issue of over-stretch of staffing resources was discussed and MCC senior staff indicated how the teaching delivery plan (one weekend in Abingdon followed by the delivery of the same lecture the following weekend on the Manchester campus) would ensure that MCC staff would have a manageable workload. It was also indicated that, on later years of the programme, there would be two cohorts on campus on any weekend – following the model of the Abingdon campus – and that the alternation between campuses would also continue. MCC senior staff also indicated that, as the programme developed at the Manchester campus, further staff would be recruited to deliver the programme and some of these would be mainly (or solely) Manchester based. BPP had undertaken to ensure that resources would follow the development of the programme.

8. The Panel was told of plans to involve a range of other health care providers and educators in the delivery of the programme. On the basis of this evidence the Panel thought that this multi-disciplinary approach to the delivery of the programme potentially was as well developed on the Manchester campus as at Abingdon.

9. The development of a research culture would be ensured through the delivery of the programme in exactly the same way as at Abingdon. It was emphasised to the Panel that support for student research projects (planning, mentoring, day to day support on a face-to-face or email basis) would be the same on both campuses.

10. The Panel noted that some current students on the Abingdon programme had indicated that they would like to undertake part of their clinic year in the Manchester clinic, if this is established to the level required to ensure a comparable experience to that at Abingdon. This would be determined by MCC senior staff and would be unlikely to commence before June 2014, at the earliest. However, if this were to be the case then the

presence of clinic students would offer very suitable role models for the early years students of the Manchester programme.

11. On the basis of its examination of the documentation and the exploration of detail in a range of meetings held during the visit, the Panel recommends to the GCC Education Committee that the MCC integrated undergraduate Masters (M. Chiro.) programme (five year part time at the Manchester campus) be recognised by the GCC. The details of how the GCC criteria for recognition were met in relation to the MCC programmes delivered at the Abingdon campus can be found in the Annex to the report of the September 2013 visit.

Conclusion

12. At the end of the visit the Chair thanked all concerned at MCC for their hospitality, the huge amount of work they had put into the development of the plan for delivery of the programme at the new site, the documentation and their patience and flexibility during the visit. He also thanked BPP colleagues for their helpful inputs.

13. The panel recommends to the Education Committee recognition of the proposed MCC integrated undergraduate Masters (M. Chiro.) five year part-time programme (Manchester Campus) for a period of five years starting with the 2014 intake to the programme (i.e. January 2014 – January 2018 for the five year programme and for cohorts graduating from the programme from December 2019 – March 2023 without further conditions over and above those recommended as a result of the September 2013 visit to the two MCC (Abingdon) programmes.

14. The Chair further stated that the condition, commendations and recommendations made at the September 2013 visit to the MCC (Abingdon) programmes would also apply to the Manchester programme. Details are set out in the report of the September 2013 visit to MCC, Abingdon. It was noted that MCC had delivered the required mapping document to the GCC in order to meet the condition.