



**REPORT OF THE RECOGNITION VISIT BY THE GCC PANEL TO THE
McTIMONEY COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC (ABINGDON)
11 and 12 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Panel

Carl Stychin (Lay member of the GCC Education Committee) – Chair
Penny Bance (GCC Director of Education, Standards and Registration)
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

The General Chiropractic Council (GCC) had received a submission from the McTimoney College of Chiropractic (MCC) for recognition of two programmes leading to a registerable qualification. The programmes are formulated as integrated, undergraduate Masters (M.Chiro.) consisting of four years of full-time study or five years of part-time study.

After receipt of documentation setting out how the programmes would be delivered 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 11 and 12 September 2013.

The visit process and result

The panel met with a wide range of staff, students and patients from MCC and also colleagues from BPP University. There was full and open interaction between the panel and all groups that it met including staff (at all levels and employment status – full time, part time, hourly paid), students from all years of the current programme, patients from the student clinic and senior staff of MCC and BPP University's senior management. There was also an opportunity to discuss with members of the MCC Trust the emerging relationship between themselves and BPP University. It was clear to the Panel that the formal relationship between BPP University and MCC (explained by the Vice Chancellor of BPP University and part of his senior management team) was robust and synergistic for both parties to it.

All of the high quality interactions during the visit gave the panel a real insight into the way that the current programmes operate and how the proposed programmes will operate.

This quality was manifested in the relatively high number of commendations made by the panel (see below).

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.) programmes (four year full time and five year part time) be recognised by the GCC.

This proposed recognition is subject to one condition – set out below. The panel also made several commendations and recommendations to MCC. The details of how the GCC criteria for recognition were met or were made subject to a condition of recognition are set out in the Annex to this report.

Conclusion

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 programmes, the documentation and their patience and flexibility during the visit. He also thanked BPP colleagues for their helpful inputs and the clear way that they had set out the relationship between MCC and BPP.

The panel recommends to the Education Committee recognition of the proposed MCC integrated undergraduate Masters (M. Chiro.) programmes for a period of five years starting with the 2013 intake to the programme (i.e. for entrants to the programme from September 2013 – September 2017 for the four year programme and January 2014 – January 2018 for the five year programme and for cohorts graduating from both programmes from June 2017 – March 2022), subject to one condition. The **condition** is:

1. That MCC produces a mapping paper that sets out clearly how the teaching and assessment of clinical imaging is delivered across the programmes of study. This is required in order that the panel can be assured that the GCC criteria for recognition 6 d, e and f are fully met. The condition to be discharged by the delivery of the mapping paper to the GCC by 31 October 2013.

The panel made the following **commendations**:

1. The high level of commitment to the programmes and work of the College seen across the entire MCC team (teaching staff, professional staff, students and patients).
2. The enhanced resources open to MCC through the relationship with BPP University. This has led to a greater measure of sustainability and stability to MCC and its programmes of study.
3. The variety and strength of pastoral and academic support (including research support) that MCC makes available to its students.
4. The role of BPP University in creating opportunities for interdisciplinary working and in providing a robust quality assurance architecture.
5. The positive involvement of patients in both student learning and its assessment.

The panel made the following **recommendations**:

1. Whilst there is some evidence of good practice in the forging of links with regulated healthcare providers and other HEIs (including Oxford University) the Panel recommends that this be further built upon with deeper and more structured relationships.
2. That MCC take full advantage of BPP University's vision of an expansive, developmental role for the external examiners of the programmes in order to provide an enhanced, robust, external perspective.

3. That MCC consider reviewing the current, ambitious learning outcomes of the research project to ensure that they match the level at which the students should be working in the programmes.
4. That MCC conduct an on-going review of the module descriptors of the programmes to reflect experience gained as these descriptors are rolled out in their first year of delivery. This process will help to reflect the increasing role of BPP University support in enhancing the programmes' content.