

Hearing Aid Council and Health Professions Council consultation on proposed threshold qualification point and Standards of Proficiency

Report to Council, 2nd July 2008

Produced by Chris O'Leary, Registrar and Director of Policy

Recommendations

1. Members are asked to note:
 - a. The establishment of STEP:UP in September 2006 and the work undertaken by that group, which forms the basis of the draft Standards of Proficiency outlined in the attached consultation document;
 - b. The work undertaken by the Council's Future Education and Training Sub-Committee and the two consultations undertaken by the Council in August 2006 and July 2007 relating to the introduction of a foundation degree in hearing aid audiology;
 - c. The inclusion in the Health and Social Care bill, currently before Parliament, of powers to abolish the Hearing Aid Council and transfer its regulator powers to the Health Professions Council;
 - d. The need to consult, as part of this transfer process, on the proposed threshold qualification point for registration with the HPC and the Standards of Proficiency for Hearing Aid Audiologists/Dispensers.
 - e. The approval of the HPC for the consultation process.
 - f. That the s60 order will include proposals for Hearing Aid Audiologist and Hearing Aid Dispenser to be the protected titles.
2. Members are asked to approve the document entitled "Hearing Aid Council and Health Professions Council consultation on standards of proficiency and the threshold level of qualification for entry to the Hearing Aid Audiologists/Dispensers part of the Register" for formal consultation over the period 15/7/2008 to 15/10/2008.
3. Members are asked to authorise the Registrar and Director of Policy to make any minor changes to the draft consultation document prior to publication for consultation, as may be required in discussion with the HPC.
4. Members are asked to instruct the Registrar and Director of Policy to work with HPC to analyse the responses to the consultation, and to present this analysis to STEP:UP at its meeting in October for consideration.
5. Members are asked to instruct the Registrar and Director of Policy to ensure that final proposals on the threshold qualification point, draft s60 order and Standards of Proficiency are brought to the Council meeting in November for approval.

This is a report from officers for consideration by Council members. The recommendations contained in this report are subject to approval, amendment and rejection by members at the committee outlined above, and may also require discussion at Council. Nothing in this report should be considered the opinion or policy of the Council.