

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy [CSP] CSP Education Position Statement: The value of the CSP's Quality Assurance and Enhancement Role

Introduction

This position statement sets out the approach that the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) takes to its quality assurance and enhancement (QAE) role. As the UK's professional, educational and trade union body for physiotherapy, the CSP seeks to hold, shape and develop the body of knowledge and skills that define the profession's contribution to services throughout patient care pathways and in various settings, as described in this document. This role is exercised within the national and international context of the profession's evolving education, practice and research base.

This position statement may be used with Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to illustrate how the CSP provides support and information to guide programme development and delivery, and to support them in responding to changes in health and social care and education. It demonstrates to stakeholders how the CSP promotes the use and sharing of innovative and excellent practice, embedding opportunities to share in all QAE activity. It can also be used with other Allied Health Professions (AHPs), the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), and government departments and bodies to demonstrate CSP's QAE role in providing leadership and support in a time of substantial change in higher education and health and social care.

The position statement will be kept under review to ensure its currency and updated as necessary.

Scope

As the educational, professional and trade union body for 53,000 chartered physiotherapists, physiotherapy students and support workers, the CSP leads and supports the development of the UK's physiotherapy workforce to ensure that it continues to be fit for purpose as population healthcare and service needs change. The CSP achieves this outcome by working collaboratively with HEIs and other bodies for the benefit of physiotherapy education, practice and research.

CSP's approach to quality assurance and enhancement

The CSP takes a supportive, enabling approach to exercising its QAE role. It works in partnership with HEIs, offering leadership and support in the ongoing development and provision of physiotherapy education, and facilitates the sharing of excellent practice. The distinctive position as a professional body is used for the benefit of physiotherapy education through advocacy, information and data sharing. The QAE processes are intended to complement those of other bodies, including the HCPC and HEIs themselves. Current policy developments and changing patient, service and practice needs are incorporated into all QAE activities and resources.

Forward-thinking and innovation in programme design, delivery and content is promoted. The CSP works with HEIs to ensure that physiotherapy education, including practice-based learning, is responsive to changing needs and supports the profession whilst continuing to deliver safe, high-quality person-centred care that is evidence-based and cost-effective. Inter-professional education approaches are encouraged, and the links between physiotherapy education, practice and research are strengthened. Great importance is placed on the development of students' professionalism and capacity for delivering person-centred,

compassionate care. Individuals entering the profession are encouraged and enabled to take personal responsibility for their ongoing professional and career development. Finally, widening participation is advocated; all physiotherapy learning environments should be inclusive, supportive, constructive and enabling for all learners.

The CSP's QAE activity

Updates and briefings are produced for education providers, contextualising developments relating to the healthcare education, patient care and service delivery, regulatory frameworks, workforce planning and broader health and social care policy; enabling programmes to remain responsive to change. A variety of communication channels are utilised, virtual and face-to-face networking opportunities are convened, ensuring that information is widely shared.

CSP accreditation offers recognition and promotion of an institution's programme, with a (re)approval process that is designed to be supportive. Liaison with the HCPC and other bodies minimises workload implications for providers. The process formally commends good practice whilst identifying with the team areas where future development might be beneficial. Resources are provided to contribute to the shaping and consistency of physiotherapy education, particularly the Learning and Development Principles, the Physiotherapy Framework and the Knowledge and Skills Framework, which are available for programme teams to use.

The CSP responds to requests from individual programme teams for support on specific issues. These range from institutional reviews of physiotherapy within learning, teaching and research profiles, and the provision of resources and staff development, to changes in commissioning and planning. In addition to CSP lobbying, individualised peer support is provided through the CSP's Education Representative arrangements.

The CSP advocates for physiotherapy education at both national and local levels, working closely with HEIs to inform the approach. In the context of evolving health education structures, workforce planning arrangements, and practice education funding, the CSP is able to use its position and links with external stakeholders to lead influencing and lobbying activity on behalf of physiotherapy education, practice and research.

HEIs are provided with data and information, collected through the Annual Quality Review process and workforce planning activity, which is not available from other sources. HEIs are able to use the identified local and national trends to help benchmark and profile themselves to meet institutional and local need; this is increasingly valuable given the growing focus on quality metrics. The CSP continually reviews the information available to inform QAE endeavours and promotes/participates in data collection to support emerging activities.

Opportunities for education providers to share innovative and excellent practice are embedded throughout QAE activities. Excellent practice is actively promoted, raising the profile of institutional activity at a national level, to benefit physiotherapy education across the UK. Networking events are convened and representative arrangements provide individuals with the opportunity to share and gather fresh ideas and perspectives, which can in turn be shared within their own institutions.

Key references and further reading

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. Learning and development principles. 2011. URL: <http://www.csp.org.uk/professional-union/careers-development/career-physiotherapy/learning-principles>

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The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. Physiotherapy framework. 2011. URL:
<http://www.csp.org.uk/professional-union/careers-development/career-development/professional-frameworks>

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. Knowledge and skills framework. URL:
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