

# PART 1

## 1 Acknowledgements

The Panel wish to thank the programme team for the co-ordination of a successful visit. The Panel also wished to thank those who took the time to meet with the Sub-Panel throughout the visit.

## 2 Introduction

This report is in relation to an audit revisit to Bradford College, BSc (Hons) and Foundation Degree (FdSc) in Ophthalmic Dispensing which took place on 7 March 2018. This report should be read in conjunction with the reports relating to the visits that took place on 16-17 April 2015, 22 June 2015, 7-8 December 2016 and 15 June 2017.

The Visitor Panel:

- Sally Powell, Lay member
- Markham May, Lay member\*
- Christine Harm, Dispensing Optician/Contact Lens Optician
- Kevin Gutsell, Dispensing Optician
- David Whitaker, Educationalist/Optomestrist\*
- Julie-Anne Little, Optomestrist\*

GOC Officer:

- Shaun de Riggs, Accreditation & Quality Officer\*

*\*Not in attendance at the audit visit.*

For the purpose of this report, those in attendance on the day of the visit will be referred to as the 'Sub-Panel' and the collective panel as the 'Panel'. The GOC is required to undertake such visits in order to obtain assurance that the standards of teaching and clinical practice within the programme are compliant with the GOC's core competencies and standards.

The Visit was conducted in accordance with the Handbook: 'Guidelines for the Approval & Quality Assurance of: Routes to Registration for Dispensing Opticians' (March 2011)'.

### 2.1 Background

Amongst other programmes, the Faculty of Applied Sciences is responsible for the delivery of the BSc (Hons) in Ophthalmic Dispensing, Foundation Degree in Ophthalmic Dispensing and the Contact Lens course.

Since September 2013, all HE courses delivered by Bradford College were accredited by Teesside University, the agreement of which has now come to an end. From September 2017, all new students have had their degree validated by Bolton University.

A full quality assurance visit was conducted on 16-17 April 2015 in which two conditions were put in place:

Ref.	Description
1a	To develop comprehensive core competency tracking documents as a matter of urgency to demonstrate the current final year cohort of students (or any 2 <sup>nd</sup> year student exiting with a Diploma) have been assessed in all of the GOC Core Competencies. This needs to evidence how and when each individual element of competence (both 'understanding of' and 'ability to do') has been achieved by each student. All competencies must be assessed prior to graduation in order to demonstrate that the programme adequately prepares students for professional qualification. The required assessments must be undertaken and the core competency record completed before the current cohort of students will be allowed to graduate and seek professional qualification.
1b	To embed into the curriculum comprehensive core competency tracking documents allowing staff to monitor the progress of each student against each individual element of competence.
2	That any substantial changes to the course require GOC approval in addition to University revalidation, so no new programme can be introduced without GOC authorisation.

A follow-up visit to review Condition 1a & 1b took place on 22 June 2015 where a sub-panel agreed that progress had been made since the April 2015 visit and that part 1a of the Condition had been met sufficiently to allow the 2015 cohort of students to graduate. However, the Panel agreed that a revisit to the programme

was required to review the ongoing progress of the conditions set out in the respective reports of the visits of 16-17 April and 22 June 2015 and to ensure that the tracking mechanisms had been fully developed and embedded into the programme.

The revisit took place on 7-8 December 2016 and the Panel concluded that the College had made progress towards meeting the conditions previously set. However, based on the evidence seen, there was still considerable work to be done in order to satisfy the Panel that the conditions could be deemed as met. Based on these findings the Panel recommended to Education Committee that these conditions be replaced with more concise conditions with the intention of assisting the College in understanding what is necessary to meet the requirements.

The last revisit took place on 15 June 2017 and the Panel concluded that the College had made progress to meet the conditions meaning that they had been partially met, however further actions needed to take place before they could be deemed as met. Therefore, provisional status remained in order for another visit to be undertaken to review progress against the current condition.

The purpose of this March 2018 visit was to audit the implementation of core competency documentation (for monitoring of how and when each individual element of competence is assessed and achieved by each student) by the College and to assess whether the condition arising from the 15 June 2017 visit had been adhered to.

All commentary in this report will relate to both programmes (BSc (Hons) in Ophthalmic Dispensing, Foundation Degree in Ophthalmic Dispensing) unless specified otherwise. The BSc (Hons) in Ophthalmic Dispensing will be referenced as the 'BSc' and the Foundation Degree in Ophthalmic Dispensing will be referenced as the 'FdSc'.

### 3 Visit Outcomes

During the visit the Sub-Panel met with Julie Lees, Programme Lead and two colleagues (Dean Dunning and Mark Hickton) to receive an update on the progress made.

The Sub-Panel were provided with relevant documentation in which to conduct an audit to evaluate the implementation of the core competency documentation.

The findings of the Sub-Panel will be circulated to the full Panel for their consideration.

Based on the findings of the visit, the Panel recommend to the Education Committee that:

- i. That the College has provided sufficient appropriate evidence for the Sub-Panel to recommend that Condition 1c has been fully met;
- ii. Full accreditation is granted;
- iii. The next visit should take place in 2021, taking into account the time since the last full visit (2016), and the recent approval of an increase in student numbers, and a change in mode of delivery for the Foundation Degree.

This report will be submitted to the Education Committee meeting taking place in June 2018.

#### 3.1 Previous Conditions

The Conditions listed below are extracted from the 15 June 2017 visit report.

Ref.	Description	Met/Not met?
1c	To implement core competency documentation which enables monitoring of how and when each individual element of competence is assessed and achieved by each student.	a) Submission of draft core competency evidence documentation.
		b) Evidence of full implementation. This can be in part via electronic submission but will be reviewed physically by a sub-panel visit in <b>June 2017</b> .
		<b>Met – See June 2017 report</b>
		<b>Met – See section 4.1</b>

### 3.2 Previous Recommendations

The Recommendations listed below are extracted from the 15 June 2017 visit report.

#### Description

To ensure that all students understand the importance of the GOC core competencies and the mechanisms by which these are assessed and evidenced in the programme (see above condition 1).

### 3.3 Conditions

Conditions are applied to training and assessment providers if there is evidence that the GOC requirements are not met. In order to ensure that the programme meets the GOC requirements, the Panel propose the following condition(s):

Ref.	Condition	Description	Due by
1	No new conditions		

### 3.4 Recommendations

The Panel offers the following recommendation to the provider. Recommendations indicate enhancements that can be made to a programme but are not directly linked to compliance with GOC requirements.

Ref.	Description
1	No new recommendations