

**Review of DHSSPS Commissioned
Cancer Education Programmes**

**Meeting of the Working Group held on
16th September 2010 at NIPEC**

ACTION NOTE

In attendance

L Barrowman (LB) – NIPEC – Chair
 Wilma Boyd-Carson (WBC) – SEHSCT
 K Dunne (KD) – NEDC
 P Fearon (PF) - NIPEC
 S Foster (SF) – NI Hospice
 R Henry (RH) – QUB
 B McGrath (BMcG) – WHSCT
 D Robinson (DR) – BHSCT

Apologies

C Blaney (CB)-BMC
 S Campalani (SC) - BHSCT
 R Carroll (RC) – SHSCT
 E Deery (ED) - NHSCT
 L Gribben (LG) – BMC
 L Henderson (LH) - NICaN

Agenda item/ reference number	Action to be taken	Action by
1.0 Apologies	Apologies noted.	
2.0 Welcome and Introductions	LB welcomed everyone to the meeting. As this was the first meeting attended by WBC and PF all members introduced themselves and indicated which organisation they represented.	
3.0 Review listed commissioned cancer education programmes from 2008- 2011	Action Note from previous meeting agreed with the amendment E Deery in attendance. LB distributed a table of commissioned activity 2008/9-2010/11. Comments received in relation to this were discussed and included the Lead Cancer Nurses' (LCNs) strategic response which recommends aligning specific courses to identified levels of practice. Discussion ensued re the frequency of courses. It was agreed some courses only need to be commissioned 2 to 3 yearly. Where need is greater DR indicated it would be easier to send more nurses	

	<p>on courses which were repeated twice a year, as it is only possible to release a limited number of staff at a given time. BMcG advised that if there was a desire to commission courses twice a year this could be done through the HSC Trust Education and Development leads for discussion in relation to education commissioning, provided required numbers were reached and the service level agreement (SLA) with education providers was adhered to.</p> <p>It was noted that: Masters programmes are not included in the commissioning plan; QUB no longer runs Level 2 courses; NEDC palliative Care module accredited with UU; BMC courses not academically accredited, learning outcomes changed and title changed to short course. LB emphasised the purpose of commissioning is to enhance knowledge and skills to improve practice, not advance practitioners qualifications per se.</p> <p>It was agreed the above issues related to the education commissioning process and the cancer leads required to discuss this at their regional meetings and liaise with the respective education and development leads.</p>	
<p>4.0 Review content and outcomes of current commissioned programmes</p>	<p>The content and outcomes of the current commissioned courses was explored. It was agreed that most courses were relevant and that outcomes were in keeping with guidelines.</p> <p>However, LB drew attention to the variety of Palliative Care Programmes - both malignant and non malignant - in which she identified areas of overlap. It was identified that the target audiences differed, although it was agreed this was not clear in the documentation. Considerable debate ensued about the best approach to identify what is needed and how best to address this. It was agreed that the members of the groups would check the courses for duplication and to clearly identify target audiences for the next meeting.</p> <p>It was identified that, as recommended by the LCN's, the In service Nurse Education Consortia could meet the needs of generalist nurses. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.</p> <p>Low uptake for modules Chemotherapy Administration and Principles of Radiotherapy (children) and, Palliative Care for Children and their Families, DR will discuss the required need and frequency of same with SC.</p> <p>DR produced some comments from BHSCT staff re</p>	<p>All</p> <p>DR</p>

	<p>evaluation of courses. To discuss this directly with RH.</p> <p>It was noted that Lymphoedema Care had previously been commissioned for small numbers, last run 2008-2009. AHPs also run this programme and it was queried that this should be undertaken as a multi-disciplinary course.</p> <p>It was agreed that most of the issues required to be discussed regionally for the attention of HSC Trust Learning and Development Leads.</p>	DR
5.0 Consider fitness for purpose/gaps in current provision	<p>Fitness for purpose and gaps discussed. BcMG stressed that the service objectives must be incorporated into learning objectives. There is also a need to clarify the target audience. It was noted that the use of a Learning Agreement could better ensure the right people are sent on the right courses and to identifying fitness for purpose. This is currently being taken forward in a separate NIPEC initiative.</p> <p>DR was reassured that nurses who administer cytotoxic drugs in other fields - for example Rheumatology – can access appropriate courses. KD stated the stand alone module Cancer Treatment and Management (for generalists), is needed, and has particular relevance for community staff. BMcG advised it has not been requested. WBC highlighted need for communication skills for generalist nurse. A discussion ensued re how best to meet need, inservice workshops and Psychological Needs for Non Mental Health Patients suggested. BMcG cautioned against using programmes licensed by external bodies.</p> <p>It was agreed that group members would review current provision to identify any significant gaps.</p>	All
6.0 Agree future work	<p>BMcG advised ECG will accept recommendations of how often to run courses, and suggested the Lead Nurses in Cancer Care are ideally placed to manage this, and through the Cancer Network, recommend cohorts to the HSC Trusts Education and Development Leads. It was suggested that this group meet each year, well in advance of the commissioning date, to advance this. The importance of adhering to the SLA was stressed. WBC agreed to discuss this with the Cancer Leads.</p> <p>Any further gaps to be identified by next meeting. LB and PF will write up 1st draft of paper. Final paper to be agreed at next meeting.</p>	<p>WBC</p> <p>All LB, PF</p>
7.0 AOB	Nil.	

8.0 Date & Time of Next Meeting	Monday 1 st November 2010@ 10.00am, Conference, Suite 1 st Floor, Centre House, 79 Chichester Street, Belfast.	
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