

Skills for Health update

Skills for Health was established in April 2002 with support from the four UK health departments, the independent and voluntary health sectors and staff organisations to become the Sector Skills Council for Health. Sector Skills Councils have a variety of responsibilities, one of which is to develop, maintain and review National Occupational Standards (NOS).

National Occupational Standards (NOS) describe good practice in the work place in terms of what an individual needs to be able to do, as well as what they need to know and understand. National Occupational Standards may be used for competence based approaches to training, development and assessment. They are developed to be applicable across the four countries, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The Complementary Therapies NOS project took place at the start of 2008 to 2009. Its focus was to review and rationalise the National Occupational Standards for twelve disciplines i.e.

- Alexander Technique
- Aromatherapy
- Bowen Technique
- Cranial Therapy
- Homeopathy
- Massage
- Nutritional Therapy
- Naturopathy
- Reflexology
- Reiki
- Shiatsu
- Yoga Therapy

These NOS were developed a number of years ago and required up-dating to reflect changing practice, and also the introduction of regulation via the newly formed Complementary and Natural Healthcare Council. The review project involved input from a wide range of practitioners, experts and stakeholders via meetings, workshops, consultation questionnaire and field testing. It is a really exciting time for all complementary therapies and Skills for Health enjoyed working with such a range and variety of professionals and disciplines.

We are now at the end of a successful consultation period and in the process of making the final tweaks to the NOS. The revised Complementary and Natural Healthcare NOS will be made available on the Skills for Health website once they have gone through the approval process.

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