

Latest from the ODG on the Accreditation project

The Osteopathic Development Group (ODG) has been considering methods to support osteopaths in demonstrating their areas of expertise to the public and other healthcare professions. In a survey of the public conducted in 2015, 94% of respondents said they thought it would be helpful for osteopaths to be able to be accredited for their areas of expertise. In a survey of osteopaths, 59% of respondents thought it was important to develop a formal process for recognising expertise in relation to specific patient groups. Both groups identified paediatrics as an area of priority.

The project team, working with the four UK colleges that offer formally assessed, post-registration paediatric training programmes, developed two proposals for consultation; a supportive framework for osteopaths that outlines the basic competences expected of those working with children and proposals for a voluntary accreditation scheme for those seeking formal acknowledgement of their expertise. During March and April, the views of osteopaths on these two proposals were sought and in excess of 300 responses to the consultation were received.

Responses showed overall support for the proposed competency framework, with 58% of respondents saying that they thought it adequately set out the knowledge, skills, values and behaviours they would expect of an osteopath working with children. However, respondents identified several areas where more detail would be helpful in supporting osteopaths to understand what is required to meet the competences in practice and plan their learning and professional development activities accordingly.

Importantly, the consultation also highlighted areas of concern in relation to the profession's understanding of some essential areas such as safeguarding. This is now considered a priority area for development.

Feedback on the proposed accreditation model was strongly divided. 20% of respondents said they would apply for accreditation. However, 58% said that the proposed model was not a suitable way to assess the competences required for the osteopathic care of children and young people, with concerns expressed on the potential impact of the proposed scheme and how it would work.

Based on this feedback, the ODG has agreed not to pursue the accreditation proposals at this time and focus on developing a supportive framework that will help osteopaths to assess their competencies, provide detailed information on the specific knowledge and skills required when working with different age groups, and signpost to relevant resources. The ODG will also explore how to provide support to the profession in priority areas such as safeguarding.

The ODG will continue to seek the views of osteopaths throughout these developments and keep the profession informed throughout the process through its member organisations and the osteopathic media.

ODG Board

Council of Osteopathic Educational Institutions

General Osteopathic Council

Institute of Osteopathy

National Council for Osteopathic Research

Osteopathic Alliance

The Osteopathic Development Group (ODG) brings together all the major osteopathic organisations in the UK, working in partnership on a range of projects to support the long-term development of the osteopathic profession. For more information about the work of the ODG and how to get involved see osteodevelopment.org.uk.