

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE: EXTERNAL EXAMINER REPORT 2012-2013 - BN(Hons) (Child Branch, March 2011, September 2011 and March 2012 cohorts - tenure to end 2015)); and MSc/Diploma in Nursing (ATP)

Dear Ms Chandler,

I am writing further to your External Examiner's report for the above programme(s). Your Report has been considered by the School of Nursing and Midwifery Studies in accordance with our approved procedures. I am, therefore, now in a position to respond on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor to the main points you had raised.

Issues Highlighted

Your Report raised one issue which has been referred for consideration by the School. The following response has been provided on behalf of the School.

5. Preparation / Induction Activity (for new External Examiners only)

It would be helpful if current course and programme guides were available on the university virtual library where work is accessed. This would improve to ensure rigour in the case of any course changes. This has been raised previously.

RESPONSE:

"The School wishes to thank Karen for her positive comments and agrees that this issue was raised last year. It was decided then to pilot the process of placing all programme documentation for those external examiners appointed in September 2012, within a virtual file, password protected and accessible by specific individuals.

From feedback received, this has proved to be very successful and the School will be rolling this out to all programmes and all externals with effect from September 2013.

Karen will be hearing from us during September when the 'files' have been set up and written instructions have been produced.

If Karen has any concerns with the process or the details contained within the virtual folders, we would welcome her comments and of course any other feedback she wishes to provide."

Positive Comments

The School and University are pleased to note your positive comments on the School's provision including:

- a. **[1, 2 and 3] your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;**
- b. **[6] your indication that the "course assessments are innovative [and] demonstrate the caring attributes of nursing and test knowledge of conditions and evidence based care".**

I hope that you will find this response satisfactory and thank you for your service as External Examiner.

In order to meet the expectations of the QAA Quality Code, both the External Examiner Annual Report and this Institutional Response will be published on Registry web pages and will be available publically.

The University's provision of the formal Institutional Response is not intended to constrain direct communication between schools and their External Examiners. Schools are encouraged to discuss with their External Examiners any matters of detail raised in their Reports and, more widely, any issues impacting on the quality and standards of awards, including possible changes to programmes.

We are most grateful for your comments and for your support in this matter.

Mrs Jill Bedford
Director of Registry and Academic Services