

Update meeting between representatives of NRCPD and ASLI

London - 18 March 2013

In attendance: Paul Parsons, NRCPD and David Wolfenden, ASLI

CRB Disclosure

The process is imperfect and has been misunderstood for some time. At the moment we require that each regulated professional has available an enhanced disclosure for clients to view. NRCPD takes no view on the content of the Disclosure Certificate, our process simply recognises that employers need to see an enhanced record when they are providing services to vulnerable people and makes sure the regulated professionals have that paperwork available. Employers are responsible for carrying out appropriate checks on the people they put in contact with vulnerable clients. As the legal requirements in this area have developed our process has become deficient in two ways 1) many employers assume that NRCPD has made a check so abdicate their responsibilities - that's an unacceptable risk for vulnerable service users and one we must do all we can to remove; and 2) they should base their decisions on the latest available information, which is an intermittent state for the information we require regulated professionals to hold.

The new statement is in response to legal changes in Scotland and decisions of the courts in England and Wales. It will give us power to act, where currently we have none.

We discussed the inclusion/omission of the competence section regarding ability to see and hear, to ensure full range of practice is available as required for each profession.

Practice Assessments.

A panel of Standards Advisors conducted professional practice interviews for 22 candidates who applied to NRCPD under a one-off accommodation to graduates of Heriot-Watt University interpreting programmes. The language of the interview was BSL. Each covered the professional development each applicant had undertaken since graduating their Heriot-Watt course and tested critical professional thinking with discussion of two practice situations.

The result of the interviews is:

- 9 applicants offered full RSLI status
- 1 applicant offered full RSLT status

- 3 applicants offered RSLI with specified CPD for one year;
- 5 applicants offered RSLI with specified CPD for two years;
- 4 applicants offered Restricted RSLI with a Development Plan required for BSL and critical professional skills development – they are not offered a yellow badge and are subject to the same monitoring as TSLI.

We have been approached to recognise overseas sign language interpreting qualifications. We will approach the board to modify the approach used in Scotland to offer similar assessments for those with appropriate overseas qualifications. Local language competence will of course be required.

Practice breaks policy

We have been discussing with stakeholders a practice breaks policy that will allow Trainees to adjust their time limits and Registered professionals to adjust their CPD requirements. In discussions it has become clear that a return to practice policy is also required. The board has asked to see both policies together before making a decision. It has given the executive authority to act for maternity and other practice breaks of less than a year in the meantime.

Will develop return to practice policy and share in the usual consultative structures.

Complaints procedure

We discussed the current complaints procedure, identified issues of access and discussed ways in which ASLI might help support the process.

Code of Professional Standards

David repeated a call that the work of Pollard and Dean be considered in drafting the new policy. He cited conceptual and linguistic issues that might be a barrier to effective access for deaf people and asked that it be made clear that the standards of practice are firmly based on ethical values.

Paul explained that those issues are being taken into account. We discussed 'confidentiality' as an example. Paul agreed to take those specific issues back to the working group, thanked David and ASLI colleagues for their input so far and asked that ASLI continue its involvement on the matter.