**Assessment and the Role of the Practice Quality Panel (PQP)**

The Practice Quality Panel is a team of people who represent service users and carers, practitioners and the university. They have overall responsibility within the module and programme team for monitoring the quality of practice learning opportunities and the assessment of students’ practice. They will provide collective feedback to practice learning teams on the evidence they have seen in portfolios identifying good practice and areas for practice development.

They are also responsible for overseeing recommendations to the Award Board regarding Pass/Fail decisions. As such the PQP acts as a sub group of the Award Board but the final decision on the Pass/Fail remains with the Award Board.

Members of the Practice Quality Panel will therefore read a sample of portfolios from each cohort for moderation purposes. A moderation meeting will be held following the interim reviews to consider situations where problems with the placement have been identified, any plans made in the light of that, and it will make appropriate recommendations. It will also consider the progress of students who are thought to be at risk of failing the placement. If necessary the panel will offer advice on further action which it thinks may be necessary to support the student to achieve a pass, beyond that already identified by the practice learning team.

Following the final reviews the moderation panel will look at a sample of portfolios, not only for students who have judged to have failed, or only just to have passed, but also for students who have done much better. The first purpose of moderation is to ensure that practice learning teams are making their decisions to broadly the same standard.

In situations where students have been judged to fail or only just to have passed, the panel will either confirm the decision reached by the practice learning team in the light of evidence in the portfolio, or if it is not sure that the correct decision has been made, it may ask to review the situation with the team. In these situations, or where teams have not been able to reach agreement, the panel will be the place for final decision by the module team on the outcome of a placement. However, as noted above the final decision on the Pass/Fail remains with the Award Board.

Beyond this the panel will also consider the situation of students who have failed and will agree a recommendation about whether another assessment opportunity should be offered.