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Annual Monitoring for Educational Oversight

The Scotland College of
Chiropractic Charitable Trust

May 2026

Educational Oversight Review: Report of the monitoring visit for the Scotland College of Chiropractic Charitable Trust, May 2026

Outcome of the monitoring visit

1. From the evidence provided in the annual return and at the monitoring visit, the review team concludes that the Scotland College of Chiropractic Charitable Trust (SCC) is making commendable progress in its continuing management of its responsibilities for academic standards and the management/improvement of the quality of learning opportunities.
2. The monitoring visit was carried out by Dr Nick Dickson, Reviewer, and Mr Alan Weale, QAA Officer, on 12 May 2026.

Changes since the last QAA review

3. The Scotland College of Chiropractic opened in September 2023. The previous QAA review was conducted in May of 2025. SCC now has three student cohorts across the four-year MChiro programme. After enrolling a new intake for the academic year 2025-26, SCC now has a total of 40 students enrolled on the MChiro programme. The awarding body remains unchanged and is Buckinghamshire New University. The material changes that have occurred are the implementation of a new clinical facility and the recruitment of additional staff to reflect the increase in student numbers. This has resulted in the appointment of three new Level 6 Module Leaders and one new Level 4 Module Leader. In total there are 12 academic staff (headcount) totalling 2.9 full time equivalent. There are further 4 management/professional support staff totalling 2.9 full time equivalent. The new clinic services facility building had been acquired when the 2025-26 review took place but it had not been equipped for use. Since then, the facility has been furnished and equipped and is in use.

Findings

4. The annual return, documentary evidence, videos of facilities and online meetings with staff and students provided the monitoring team with convincing evidence to support the conclusion that The Scotland College of Chiropractic Charitable Trust is making commendable progress with the implementation of their action plan. This conclusion was reached on the basis that all actions taken as a result of the 2025-26 review have been completed (paragraph 5). The recommendation to implement a resource strategy has been addressed (paragraphs 5, 6 & 7) and taken further than recommended (paragraph 7). The second recommendation, to explore with current and potential clinical placement providers the possibilities of working together in a more formal partnership has been incorporated into work on developing the new clinical facilities. The good practice that had been identified during the review has been maintained and further developed (paragraphs 7 and 10).

5. It is clear that the College has engaged fully and effectively with all actions from the previous review. All actions have been completed and there is evidence of continuing enhancement driven by the College's own internal quality assurance processes. There is a full and thoughtful commentary on all sections. The implementation of the resource strategy has led them to acquiring new premises and enabled them to hire new teaching staff to support their intention to grow and enhance their provision. The opening of the new student chiropractic clinic has enhanced and strengthened relationships between the college and the wider community, as well as enabling existing placement providers to join the college staff as clinical tutors. This effectively meets the recommendation from the previous review to explore with current and potential clinical placement providers the possibilities of working together in a more formal partnership to facilitate mentorship, networking and advisory capabilities.
6. Students confirmed the new facilities are a great enhancement and are furthering their skills in the chiropractic careers they expect to take once they have completed their programmes. Newly inducted academic staff have received an excellent introduction to their new roles within the College, including the use of the new facilities.
7. The initial review recommended that the College develop a resourcing strategy to ensure it can guarantee its resources align with future strategic and programme developments. The College has taken this recommendation further by expanding its physical offering (which was in plan during the review but has been finished ahead of schedule) and further initiating a student chiropractic clinic to build into its future intent to enhance community links. It has also linked this with the suggested good practice from the initial review and has built upon this strategy to further the chiropractic profession.
8. The numbers of students studying at the College remains consistent with cohort 2023/24: 12 enrolments; Cohort 2024/25: 16 enrolments; Cohort 2025/26: 13 enrolments. Retention remains high at 83% for the 2023/24 cohort and 100% for the 2024/25 cohort. No student has left the programme because of academic failure. One student had to defer their studies due to personal circumstances but following an agreed deferral, returned to the programme in the following year. Students are exceptionally well supported to overcome academic and non-academic challenges.
9. The College has made clear progress with its interactions with its professional body and have successfully reached the review visit stage of the process to ensure its programmes gain accreditation. Further, the College has made provision for student funding in the future by applying to the Northern Ireland and Wales higher education funding bodies for designated programme status.
10. The College are also enhancing their activities with the local community and are organising networking and conference events to support this. Students reported they are actively engaging with the profession via the wider chiropractic student organisations they are involved in, and the College is financially supporting this work.

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