# Quality Assurance for Practice Placements

When a potential new placement area is first established there will be an audit undertaken to ascertain the nature of the service and whether it would make a safe and effective learning environment for undergraduate occupational therapy students.  From 2018 thereafter, on a yearly cycle, all placements are asked to complete a self-assessment audit tool online, which uses the HCPC Standards of Education & Training as a basis for questions.  The self-assessment audit activity includes identifying and implementing an action plan for further enhancement of placement provision. There is an external validation exercise on the collated self-assessment results which is presented and discussed with service partners at established regular interface meetings. Your placement liaison link will work with your placement coordinator to complete these.

On return to UWE students need to complete a placement evaluation. The evaluation of placements is performed using the online placement allocation and evaluation database, ARC.  There are also annual practice educator events / liaison meetings at which quality assurance discussions can take place face to face.

The placement team at UWE also access practice evaluation data and this could be reviewed if specific issues are identified, for example if a student reports to the University that they are encountering difficulties on placement. This could generate action such as an ad hoc visit to the placement or communication with placement managers by senior level UWE staff – for example by an appropriate officer from PPO.