

## Midwifery Panel Summary 22 October 2018

This was the first meeting of the Panel chaired by the new independent Chair **Dr Anna van der Gaag**, Visiting Professor of Ethics and Regulation at the University of Surrey. Panel members welcomed Anna to her role. Anna noted that in preparing to take on Chairing the Panel she had been struck by how the NMC valued the Panel's advice and she recognised the importance of the work of the Panel and the value it added to the work of the NMC.

There was a real desire to ensure the work of the Panel was more widely known and understood. In future, a summary of Panel discussions would be published with a link to the minutes for those who would like more detail.

This is the first such summary and you can read the full minutes once they have been approved at the next meeting.

### **Future midwife**

The Panel's main business was discussion of the draft future midwife standards.

The Panel received a presentation from **Professor Mary Renfrew**, who was leading this work for the NMC on the latest drafts of the proficiency standards and skills. These two drafts would be brought together in the final draft standards before consideration by the Council. The Panel had a full and lively debate on the draft standards, recognising that these were the product of a huge amount of engagement across all four countries and interested stakeholders over the past two years. The versions considered by the Panel included the comments of the Thought Leadership Group and Lead Midwives for Education forum. The Panel welcomed the solid evidence and research base that clearly underpinned the draft standards.

***Panel members considered that, subject to the comments made, the draft standards were fit for the Council to approve for consultation.***

### **Draft pre-registration programme standards**

The Panel also received a presentation from **Professor Gwendolen Bradshaw**, the Chair of the reference group advising on the development of the pre-registration midwifery programme standards. The reference group had discussed the programme requirements with a number of groups, including the Thought Leadership Group and the Lead Midwives for Education forum.

The draft standards would form part of a suite of documents which would include the standards framework and the standards for student assessment. These would also sit in a wider framework which included the NMC Code and the UK Quality Code for Higher Education.

***Panel members were satisfied that the draft pre-registration programme standards were suitable for consideration by the Council.***

## **Midwifery programme length**

Panel members welcomed the NMC's planned work on the length of the midwifery programme. A review of evidence had been commissioned and there would be a range of stakeholder engagement events followed by a roundtable of experts in January 2019. The results of this work would inform appropriate questions in the area to be asked as part of the consultation on the draft standards. KPMG had been engaged to support this work, and they would shortly be contacting people, including the Chief Nursing Officers in the four countries, to seek involvement.

## **Engagement and communications on midwifery**

In addition to the extensive engagement undertaken around the draft standards, Panel members welcomed the wider engagement and other communication activities being undertaken, including:

- The NMC's Midwifery Listening Event on 18 October 2018, which was very well-received by attendees.
- A recent 'We midwives' twitter chat.
- Plans for an NMC survey on Midwifery Care targeted at expectant or new mothers and families.
- Visits by Council members with Donna Ockenden, Senior Midwifery Adviser to the Chief Executive, to hear first-hand from midwives about their day to day work.

## **Good practice and information sharing**

The Panel heard about the preceptorship programme at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. With RCM funding, the Board provided midwives on the preceptorship programme with pink stork-themed badges. This helped multidisciplinary teams recognise that more support may be needed and made new midwives feel welcome and part of the team. The badges had been a great success with all midwives reporting that they felt supported and zero attrition for the programme. Panel members noted that this was an excellent example of the power of bringing data and stories together.

Panel members agreed that in future it would be good to allow up to two hours for meetings, to allow plenty of time for sharing good practice and similar items.

## **NMC October 2018**