

11th of February 2021 14:30 – 15:30

Minutes

Attending	Organisation	Apologies	Organisation
Heather Finlay (HF) Co-chair	DoH	Angela McLernon (Co-chair)	NIPEC
Brendan McGrath (BMcG)	DoH	Neal Cook (UU)	UU
Dale Spence (DS)	WHSCT	Paul Canning (CEC)	CEC
Dawn Ferguson (DF)	SHSCT	Peter Barbour (Health NI)	DoH
Donna Gallagher (DG)	OU	Karen McCutcheon	QUB
Fiona Bradley (FB)	NIPEC	Caroline Diamond	NHSCT
Frances Cannon (FC)	NIPEC	Jan Webb	OU
Jenny McNeill (JMcN)	QUB	Owen Barr	UU
Pamela Craig (PC)	NHSCT	Shona Hamilton	NHSCT
Rita Devlin (RD)	RCN	Yvonne Connolly	BHSCT
Sharon McRoberts (SMcR)	SEHSCT		
Sheelagh O'Connor (SOC)	BHSCT		
Verena Wallace (VW)	NMC		
Sue West (SW)	NMC		

1. Welcome and Apologies - Noted as above

2. Chair's Opening Remarks

HF noted that this would be a short meeting due to ongoing pressures on the system and that the last two scheduled meetings (10th December 2020 and 14th January 2021) were both stood down due to the same. Work of the Northern Ireland Practice Learning Collaborative (NIPLC) and Midwifery Ongoing Reference Group (MERG) and relevant work streams has continued and thanks was noted to members involved for progressing FNFM work during this time.

3. Previous Meeting Minutes (12th Nov 2020)

These were agreed as a final and accurate account of the meeting. No new actions were noted from the last meeting.

4. Northern Ireland Practice Learning Collaborative

The NIPLC last met on the 11th of January 2021 and the group is working well. The NIPLC have agreed to reduced the frequency of monthly meetings, and it is expected the date held in march will be used for AEIs to look at student flows and mapping. The NIPLC continues to monitor preparation programme completion and student capacity figures and provided the CNO with updates on these monthly. It was also noted that the PLE Audit had been amended slightly in relation to prescribing information.

5. Update from the NMC

VW provided an update from the NMC as per the appended briefing paper.

6. Programme Board Update

It was noted that the Programme Board meeting scheduled for the 12th of January 2021 was stood down and the next meeting will be held on the 4th of March 2021. Student placements and equitable allocation is an area of work the Programme Board were looking progress and asked that this be progressed by the Working Group. It was agreed it was timely to look at a process to ensure equitable allocations and explore principles or an algorithm that might support this. RD raised the importance of seeking input from staff in practice in relation to any criteria that might be agreed for allocations.

Progressing this work was very welcomed by the group and it was agreed that SMcR would take this forward, as Co-chair of the NIPLC, and arrange a meeting with ADoNs, AElS and a Midwifery/MERG representative for preliminary work to commence on this.

ACTION

It was also noted that through the (external) Workforce work stream that there may be an opportunity to raise awareness and promote the Non-HSC and voluntary sector to uptake students/increase PLEs. **NOTED**

7. Update on Work Streams

7.1 E-NIPAD Update

UU and QUB have launched ENIPAD in practice/with students in January – some initial go-live issues occurred in the first week however these were resolved swiftly and feedback from students and practice has been positive. OU is in the process of confirming procurement details in relation to the ENIPAD at present. Information from the ENIPAD development and launch is also being utilised to inform the EMORA work.

7.2 Engagement & Communication

The meeting scheduled for the 27th of January 2021 was stood down and a new date is being confirmed. The focus of this work stream now lies with midwifery as MERG and MERG work streams prepare for implementation ahead of September 2021.

7.3 Non-HSC/Independent Sector

A meeting regarding the work of this task and finish group was due to be held on the 19th of January, however this was stood down. It was recognised that Non-HSC organisations were not in a position to focus on areas outside of the immediate needs relating to the COVID-19 response, therefore the work relating to promoting the uptake of students and expansion of PLEs at present would be reconvened when appropriate within the current situation. Registration of Non-HSC staff on HSC Learning to access the FNFM Preparation programmes continues.

8. Future Midwife

8.1 Midwifery Ongoing Record of Achievement

The last meeting was held on the 27th of January – this group is currently finalising the EMORA resources and focusing on initiating the work relating to the Electronic MORA (EMORA) – work is underway to share the initial build view of the EMORA.

8.2 MERG Practice Learning Environments

This work stream has also discussed capacity and equitable allocation of students – noting that the meeting agreed at Agenda item 6 will include midwifery allocations also. Following the Continuity of Midwifery Care (CoMC) scoping report done via DoH, work is now underway to see how CoMC will work in practice. QUB have a Student led group looking at models and pilots and review of the PLE Audit will commence to identify how CoMC capacity can be identified.

9. Risk Register

No additional risks have been added.

10. AOB

The 9th of March scheduled meeting will be stood down and future Meetings will be held in April, June and September – dates are currently being sought and will be emailed to members once available. The March stood down.

New Actions from this meeting		
Ref	Detail	Owner/s
Ap62	It was agreed it was timely to look at a process to ensure equitable allocations and explore principles or an algorithm that might support this. SMcR would take this forward, as Co-chair of the NIPLC, and arrange a meeting with ADoNs, AEIs and a Midwifery/MERG representative for preliminary work to commence on this.	
Ongoing Actions from previous meetings		
Ref	Detail/Update	Owner
AP40	Interested organisation to contact SW to assist with NI examples. DG to coordinate BHSCT examples via Practice Learning Environment (PLE) Work Stream. 15th Oct Update FC to Follow up with organisations. 14 th Nov Update – FC to follow up 12 th May 2020 update – FC to provide post-roll out. Update: To be provided post roll out once students have commenced.	All and DG/ PLE Work Stream
Closed Actions since last meeting		
AP61	It was agreed that the meeting on 8 th October could be paused - the date will remain in the diaries for the working group and if needed could and a meeting could be repurposed. Advice to be provided early October, when need established. Update – an extraordinary meeting arranged in place of working group to progress priorities for NIPLC re PLE Capacity.	Closed

NMC UPDATE FOR NI's FNFM MERG and WG

To	FNFM Midwifery Expert Reference Group (MERG) and Working Group (WG) in Northern Ireland
From	Nursing and Midwifery Council
Date	11 February 2021 (am and pm)
Regarding	Update on NMC activities

1. Update on the approval of programmes

The approval process is currently established to take place remotely, leading to fewer approval events being deferred and this will continue until the end of June. For Northern Ireland all AEl's are now approved against the new standards for nursing and prescribing, with Queens University Belfast fully approved for midwifery.

The only approval event outstanding is for the University of Ulster and the return to practice programme which is planned for May this year.

We continue to develop scenarios for publication around the standards of proficiency for both nursing and midwifery with a number in development to be published over the next few months. We are also in the final phase of developing a public facing animation around 'what to expect from your nurses' and 'what to expect from your midwives' and we will let you know when these are published online. Our intention is that as well as being on our website, they will be available for public facing spaces such as general practice and accident and emergency waiting rooms.

2. EU exit and EU directive research

We are carrying out preliminary scoping work through an independent review to get an idea of what, or indeed if, we need to do anything around the EU directives which are currently embedded in both our nursing and midwifery standards.

There is a stakeholder reference group of senior representatives from each of the four countries who have guided us in this work, informing our direction of travel.

Our appointed suppliers Harlow Consulting and Traverse will be looking at midwifery and nursing separately as the elements are different. We realise this is a potentially huge piece of work, so we are starting with this preliminary scoping before making any decisions about next steps.

We were expecting to have the research findings by the end of March 2021, although we have delayed the survey phase of this work due to the pandemic, after which we will work in co-production with stakeholders, the public and professionals to develop recommendations for our Council, if required.

3. Post-registration standards consultation

In January Council agreed that we could consult on the new, draft post-registration standards. However given the status of the pandemic and the current impact on services and workforce, this work has been paused until such time as it is deemed appropriate to resume the formal consultation. All the previous work, slides and webinars are available [here](#).

4. Enabling student education and supporting the workforce

On 14 January 2021 we announced the [reintroduction of emergency education standards](#) to enable final year nursing students to opt in to support the response to the Covid-19 pandemic, via extended clinical placement where this was deemed necessary by the local service to expand capacity.

We also introduced two additional emergency standards relating to first year midwifery and nursing students and supervision and assessment in practice. As a UK regulator, these emergency standards are available for use in each country but are not mandatory for any individual country, region, institution or student.

5. Expanding the temporary register to additional overseas-trained nurses

We published a [joint statement](#) with the UK's four Chief Nursing Officers outlining our shared position on 5 Jan '21. We have published [detailed information](#) on the process we are following. In agreement with Chief Nursing Officers and midwifery leaders, no overseas-trained midwives will be invited to join the temporary register at this time.

6. Information about vaccines

We have published a dedicated webpage on [vaccines](#). We will keep this webpage updated as the situation develops.

7. NMC's work in relation to Covid-19

To keep up to date with all the NMC's work in response to Covid-19, please read our [stakeholder information packs](#). These are updated regularly with the latest information. We also have a [Covid-19 website hub](#) which continues to be updated with practical information about our role as a regulator during the Covid-19 pandemic.

8. NMC oral evidence to Health and Social Care Committee inquiry into the safety of maternity services in England

Andrea Sutcliffe gave oral evidence to the committee on 19 January 2021, alongside the Chief Executive and Registrar of the General Medical Council (GMC) and the Clinical Director of Maternity Investigations at the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB). The evidence session can be watched back on [Parliament TV](#)

9. Response to the Ockenden report

The interim [Ockenden report](#) gives the emerging findings and recommendations from the independent review of maternity services at the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust. In our [response](#) we said that the NMC has a role to play in taking forward the report's recommendations as the professional regulator for midwives, and that the new Future Midwife standards provide a firm foundation for the excellent care women and their babies need.

10. Managing concerns: a resource for employers

On 2 February 2021 we published [Managing Concerns](#): a resource for employers, to further support employers with best practice principles when investigating and managing concerns.

11. NMC Council Chair recruitment

NMC launched an open selection process for its new Chair on 10 February. Anybody eligible for the role, who has the skills, values, passion and experience the NMC is looking for should contact Hunter Healthcare who is supporting the search and selection process.

Further information

For further information about anything outlined in this paper, please contact:

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