

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 13:00 – 14:30**

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Name	Organisation	Apologies	Name
Angela McLernon (Co-Chair)	NIPEC	Dawn Ferguson <i>GH attending OBO</i>	SHSCT
Heather Finlay (Co-Chair)	DOH	Owen Barr	UU
Bernadette Gribben	NIPEC	Paul Canning	CE
Caroline Diamond	NHSCT	Peter Barbour	DoH
Dr Dale Spence	DoH	Rita Devlin	RCN
Donna Gallagher	Open University	Verena Wallace	NMC
Dr Neal Cook	Ulster University	Stephanie Flack	FSHC
Frances Cannon	NIPEC	Jenny McNeill	QUB
Fiona Bradley	NIPEC	McGrath Brendan <i>SM attending OBO</i>	WHSCT
Gillian Henry <i>OBO DF</i>	SHSCT	Shona Hamilton	NHSCT
Sheelagh O'Connor	BHSCT		
Pamela Craig	NHSCT		
Patricia Cosgrove	DoH		
Sally Martin <i>OBO BMcG</i>	WHSCT		
Sharon McRoberts	SEHSCT		
Sue West	NMC		

### 2. Chair's Opening Remarks

AMcL advised that the HSC Leadership Centre Outage impact on FNFM preparation programme completion Project has been escalated to DOH and CNO. MSC Midwifery students will commence programmes on the 10th of May 2021 and their first clinical practice day will be the 5th July.

### 3. Previous Meeting Minutes (11<sup>th</sup> February)

These were agreed as an accurate account of the meeting and final record. An update on Actions is appended to these minutes.

### 4. Northern Ireland Practice Learning Collaborative

SMcR advised that the last meeting on the 8th March was repurposed as an AEI Mapping meeting to open up PLEs and look at placement issues. CAMHS placements remain in urgent need as well as reduced availability in non-HSC organisations and in community. NIPLC will meet bi-Monthly and continue to monitor PLE capacity and Preparation programme on a monthly basis, with updates being provided to CNO.

Some clinical areas had suggested having a 'Student Holiday', however Trusts and AEIs indicated this would not be manageable and HF reiterated that the role of senior and nursing colleagues should continue to reinforce message that students are part and parcel of our everyday work, and are critical to our future work force.

To date approx. 9000 registered nurses have completed FNFM Practice Assessor preparation programmes via HSC Learning or face to face/webinar delivery. The predominant resources being used is HSC Learning and member reiterated the important of HSC Learning being up and running with haste in order for staff to complete their training.

A query was raised regarding the equitable allocations work being progressed through NIPLC re developing an algorithm – there will be a scoping exercise and pilot to determine what would be realistic – an update will be provided thereafter.

## **5. Update from the NMC**

Sue West as per the attached briefing. A query was raised regarding the NMC's stance on vaccination centres being accessed as student placements. SW advised that students are not allowed to administer but the environment could be an excellent learning opportunity, but very specifically in a supernumerary capacity and as a learning opportunity

## **6. Programme Board Update**

The last meeting of the Programme Board was on 4th of March 2021 with the main item for discussion being the equitable allocations item and 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.

## **7. Update on Work Streams**

### **7.1 E-NIPAD Update**

Pre-registration ENIPAD is live and in use; EMORA is the focus for May launch and development of the post-registration ENIPAD has also commenced with a September launch timeframe. Feedback from practice indicated that the core NIPAD videos are key resources and members congratulated all involved for the achievement and success of this work.

### **7.2 Engagement & Communication**

This work stream last met on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2021, work is underway to distribute core FNFM hardcopy resources to practice learning environments, develop the May FNFM Communique which highlights midwifery activity, and to build the FNFM countdown clock and other video launches for midwifery.

### **7.3 Non-HSC/Independent Sector**

An update was provided from BG for the Independent Sector/Non-HSC organisations task and finish group:

- Regular meetings taking place prior to March 2020 were stood down thereafter due to the impact of Covid, though Co-chairs and AEIs continued to meet.
- An updated scoping exercise and analysis of audited registered organisations shows that there has been very little change to the number of PLEs in this sector. Feedback indicated that independent sector weren't in a situation to take on students due to Covid restrictions with visitors and additional pressures. Resources have been shared and promoted and work is underway to provide FNFM information at ECHO sessions.
- Remaining issues as to how AEIs identify who has completed preparation programmes but due to GDPR this remains unresolved.
- Some targeted work underway to identify services with who would be well placed to take more, or start, taking students and a wider focus on increasing students for the next academic year.
- It was noted that a lot of areas are audited but pulling out the placement last minute, creating pressure on AEIs and then Trusts who are being asked to pick up capacity.
- Concerns re funding HSC Learning sign up finishes in June – PHA progressing this to ensure ongoing funding

## **8. Future Midwife**

### **8.1 Midwifery Ongoing Record of Achievement**

The resources to support MORA training and ongoing use are complete and have been shared with Trusts. Work is progressing swiftly to launch the EMORA for May for MSc Students and this group meets weekly to review, test and resolve issues ahead of the launch. Training for staff and students is being arranged also.

## **8.2 Practice Learning Environments**

- Preparation Programmes are delayed via HSC eLearning and face to face delivery can proceed where able locally, as resources have been developed and shared to enable this.
- Caroline Diamond will attend the equitable allocations meeting and represent midwifery – there may need to be a different approach to bed numbers with a view to consider staff in post to identify an equitable approach.
- Continuity of Midwifery Care definitions have been developed, agreed and included in the audit guidance and audits are being revisited to include CoMC information.

## **9. Risk Register**

Leadership centre Outage and QUB Cyber security still not resolved and has been escalated to DOH and CNO and recorded on Risk Register.

## **10. Future Meetings**

- **Thu 17/06/2021 14:00-16:00**
- **Thu 23/09/2021 10:00-12:00**

New Actions from this meeting		
Ref	Detail	Owner/s
	N/A	
Ongoing Actions from previous meetings		
Ref	Detail/Update	Owner
Ap62	<p>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, AElS and a Midwifery/MERG representative for preliminary work to commence on this.</p> <p><b>April Update:</b> Meeting held on the 26th March 2021 and agreed that each ADs will look across services and see how many beds and how many students they cantake, next meeting early may to see comparison across beds and capacity for students to agree what is reasonable and equitable to establish a mechanism to allocate and identify capacity.</p>	
AP40	<p>Interested organisation to contact SW to assist with NI examples. DG to coordinate BHSCT examples via Practice Learning Environment (PLE) Work Stream.</p> <p>15th Oct Update FC to Follow up with organisations.  14<sup>th</sup> Nov Update – FC to follow up  12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 update – FC to provide post-roll out.</p> <p>Update: To be provided post roll out once students have commenced.</p>	All and DG/ PLE Work Stream
Closed Actions since last meeting		
	N/A	

## NMC UPDATE FOR NI's FNFM

To	FNFM Midwifery Expert Reference Group (MERG) in Northern Ireland
From	Nursing and Midwifery Council
Date	22 April 2021
Regarding	Update on NMC activities

### 1. Update on the approval of programmes

For Northern Ireland all AEIs 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.

### 2. Animations about midwives and nurses

Our two animations for the public on midwives and nurses will be launched on 11 May. Our intention is that as well as being on our website, the animations will be available for public facing spaces such as in GP practices, clinics and community facilities.

### 3. Latest newsletters for midwives and students

We published our latest quarterly newsletter for midwives and for nurses and nursing associates on 25 March.

**[Read our latest newsletter for midwives](#)**

**[Read our latest newsletter for nurses](#)**

Anyone can **[sign up](#)** on our website to receive future issues straight to their inbox.

There are newsletters for educators, employers, the public, midwives, nurses and students. Previous newsletters can be found **[here](#)**.

### 4. Programme standards review (EU directive) - independent research – scoping survey closing date 11 May

We are seeking the views and input of public representative groups, professionals, educators, students and employers around the UK about our current education programme standards and whether they should be changed. To date we have received over 5,000 responses.

Our **[survey](#)**, which we launched on 30 March for 6 weeks, will close on Tuesday 11 May 2021.

It comes as the UK is no longer required to follow EU law on requirements for nursing and midwifery education programmes following the end of the EU exit transition period.

Our programme standards reflect EU law and will remain the same unless we propose, consult and agree on any changes. The survey is part of an independent research we've commissioned to help us decide whether we should make changes to the standards now that EU Law no longer applies.

## **5. Post-registration standards consultation**

On 8 April we launched a [consultation](#) on new draft education standards that build on ambitions for community and public health nursing in the UK. These essential education standards were last updated over 15 years ago. The draft standards are designed to support the innovation in practice that is already happening across the four countries of the UK. They are also flexible enough to take account of future ambitions for care which will develop as our communities evolve and grow.

Over the ensuing 16 weeks, there will be a range of ways for people to get involved and share their views on the proposals. We will be hosting [virtual drop-in sessions](#) to facilitate conversations alongside [webinars and virtual panel events](#). Find out how to get involved [here](#).

## **6. 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.

## **7. Information about vaccines**

We have a dedicated webpage on [vaccines](#). We update this webpage as the situation develops.

## **8. Further information**

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

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