

## Northern Ireland Implementation of the NMC Post-registration Standards for Community Nursing Specialist Practice Qualifications (SPQ) & Specialist Community Public Health Nurses (SCPHN) Communiqué (July 2023)

Welcome to the second Communiqué providing information and updates on the regional implementation of the new NMC post-registration standards of proficiency for community nursing specialist practice qualifications (SPQ) and specialist community public health nurses (SCPHN (2022)). (Access the Standards [Here](#)).

NIPEC are leading a programme of work in partnership with the Department of Health (DoH) and key stakeholders to ensure that future community nursing SPQ and SCPHN education programmes are aligned to the new NMC post-registration standards for commencement in September 2024.

### Update on this work

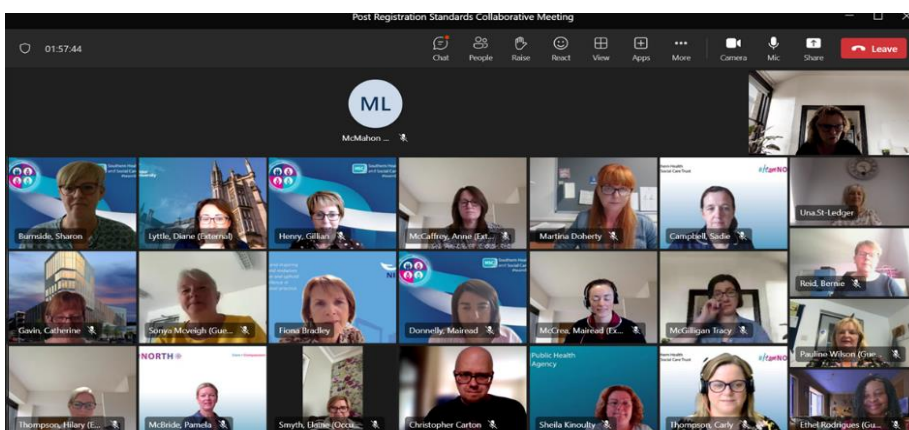
The third meeting of the Post-registration Standards Steering Group took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

A Post-registration Standards Collaborative was established in April 2023 and is co-chaired by Sharon Burnside (SHSCT) and Diane Lyttle, (UU).

The Collaborative aims to work in partnership with the Approved Education Institutions (AEIs) and practice partners to ensure standardised, regional implementation of the NMC Post-registration Standards (2022) by September 2024.

Membership of the Collaborative includes representation from the NMC, the HSC Trusts, NI's Education Provider Organisations, the DoH, the Public Health Agency, Federation GP support Unit, Staff Side Organisations, the independent, community and voluntary sectors. There are also representatives from the fields of practice for;

- SCPHN - health visiting, school nursing, occupational health nursing
- Community nursing SPQ - community children's nursing, community learning disabilities nursing, community mental health nursing, district nursing and general practice nursing.



Members of the Post-registration Standards Collaborative meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

The Collaborative have agreed a Terms of Reference and a work plan with timescales for delivery of the agreed outputs.

- To date, the work plan has nine different work strands which include:
  1. Review and agree a standardised approach to the selection processes within HSC Trusts for entry onto the SCPHN and community SPQ programmes.
  2. Regional agreement relating to the number of practice hours required by community SPQ and SCPHN students.
  3. Review and agree preparation programmes for practice supervisors and practice assessors to support SPQ and SCPHN student learning and assessment.
  4. Agree a regional approach to Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) education programmes.
  5. Regional agreement for GPs and community pharmacists etc. to support V300 Practice Supervisors and Practice Assessors including their preparation.
  6. Update the SPQ Framework and core Job Description.
  7. Update the NI.Future Nurse Future Midwife SSSA model and guide.
  8. Regional agreement on supporting and providing opportunities in practice learning environments for eligible NMC nurses, including NHS, non-NHS, self-employed or self-funded applicants to apply for entry onto an NMC approved community nursing SPQ or SCPHN programme.
  9. Review the numbers of nurses and midwives working in HSC Trusts who have completed a Non-Medical Prescribing (NMP) qualification since 2017 and how they are applying it in their clinical practice.
- A number of stakeholder events with practice partners and service users relating to the new community nursing SPQ and SCPHN standards and proficiencies have been held by UU. This collaborative approach has generated valuable feedback providing evidence to assure a smooth transition of the new NMC Standards into education and practice.
- Thanks to those who took part in the NIPEC on-line rapid review of the numbers of nurses and midwives working in HSC Trusts who have completed a Non-Medical Prescribing (NMP) qualification since 2017 and also to those who took part in the focus group interviews. NIPEC are preparing a report on the findings from this review.

Information on this work can be accessed on the NIPEC website [Here](#)

### Update from the NMC

Look out for the NMC on- line workshop on 24th July (13:00 – 14:30) on the Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment (SSSA) for SCPHN and SPQ students. Access tickets [Here](#).

You can also access the NMC's Frequently Asked Questions page relating to SCPHN and community nursing SPQ [Here](#)

### Project Lead

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