

## Review of the Maternity Support Workers (MSW) education programme and development of resources for the MSW role

### Third meeting of the Steering Group

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 10.00pm via Zoom Platform**

**Present:**

Fionnuala McCluskey, Midwifery Support Officer (Co-Chair) DoH	FMcC
Dawn Ferguson, Interim Assistant Director of Nursing, Workforce and Education (Co-Chair) SHSCT	DS
Heather Watson, Midwifery Support Officer (attending obo Dr Dale Spence, (DOH)	HW
Helen Weir, Head of Midwifery, NHSCT	HW
Maureen Miller, Head of Midwifery, WHSCT	MM
Brenda Kelly, Head of Midwifery, BHSCT	BK
Margaret Rogan, Consultant Midwife, Deputy Head of Midwifery, BHSCT	MR
Wendy Clarke, Head of Midwifery, SHSCT	WC
Shirley Stronge, Senior Education Manager, CEC	SS
Anne Shine, HR Forum	AS
Heather Clyde, Assessor, SHSCT (on behalf of Lynn Irwin)	HC
Karen Murray, NI Director RCM	KM
Anne Speed, Head of Bargaining and Representation, UNISON Northern Ireland	AS
Fiona Bradley Senior Professional Officer, Project Lead, NIPEC	FB
Linda Woods, Administrative Assistant, NIPEC (note taker)	

**Apologies:-**

Monica Johnston, Staff Tutor, Open University  
 Lynn Irwin, HR Manager, Vocational Workforce Assessment Centre  
 Dr Alison Little, Midwife Consultant, PHA  
 Aislinn McAlister, Workforce Policy Directorate, DOH  
 Dr Dale Spence, Midwifery Officer, DoH  
 Valerie Porter, Head of Midwifery, SEHSCT

Agenda Item	Notes	Action by
1	<b>Welcome and introductions</b> FMcC welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the MSW Steering Group being held on the International Day of the Midwife. A round of introductions were held.	
2	<b>Apologies</b> As above	
3	<b>Previous notes (24<sup>th</sup> March 2022) and associated actions</b>  Action notes of 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2022 were agreed apart from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FB to share wording about the Review to the Steering and Working Group for onward circulation to their respective Maternity Trust Liaison Committees (MSLC) and other forums, along with the link to the NIPEC website.</li> <li>• MMcKenna to confirm email address.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">FB</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MMcK</p>

<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Feedback from MSW Working Group</b>          HW, Co-Chair of MSW Working Group provided feedback on the work completed by the Working Group, stating it had been very positive and productive. Una Patton has joined the Working Group as a MSW representative. MC to forward name of a hospital based MSW.</p> <p>Service Users representation now on the Working Group - Joanna McDonald and Sharon Bingham.</p> <p>Update on the MSW Scoping Tool was provided and particular reference was made to a number of outstanding duties that required more discussion by the Working Group before agreement was made. These were:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="316 712 1359 1061"> <thead> <tr> <th>Outstanding MSW core duties</th> <th>MSW core duty</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Scrub Role in Theatres</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Intravenous cannulation</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Supporting Midwives for home births/Second person for deliveries</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carbon Monoxide Monitoring</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Taking infant capillary blood samples for glucose estimation</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Principles for processing point of care testing eg. Blood/urine analysis</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Consensus was provided by the Steering group on these points also.</p> <p>The Working Group requested that Newborn Blood Spot Screening (NBSS) should be bought back to the Steering Group for discussion and agreement on whether this should be a MSW core duty. Following discussion it was agreed by the Steering Group that NBSS should not be a MSW core duty.</p> <p>A number of members from the Working Group agreed to meet as a sub group to cross check this work with the other UK MSW programmes.</p> <p>KM to send FMcC/DF and FB a Scottish report recently published on Healthcare Support workers for information.</p>	Outstanding MSW core duties	MSW core duty	Scrub Role in Theatres	No	Intravenous cannulation	No	Supporting Midwives for home births/Second person for deliveries	No	Carbon Monoxide Monitoring	Yes	Taking infant capillary blood samples for glucose estimation	Yes	Principles for processing point of care testing eg. Blood/urine analysis	Yes	<p>MC</p> <p>KM</p>
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<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Feedback from Equality and Human Rights Screening Template</b>          FB reported that she had feedback from the BSO Equality Advice Unit, in relation to two points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The needs of the MSWs who undertake the training taking into consideration the nine groups relevant to Section 75 categories of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 - who are they and what are their needs in terms of accessing and completing the programme and obtaining a job.</li> <li>2. The needs of service users being met.</li> </ol> <p>The Working Group had discussed these issues at their previous meeting and agreed these points would be covered. The Steering Group agreed that mandatory training including diversity and culture awareness is currently in place within the Trusts.</p>															
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Standards for Maternity Support Workers</b>          It was agreed to develop the MSW competencies first before looking at developing the MSW Standards – staying in line with the work plan. FB shared a</p>															

	copy of the DoH GP Senior Nursing Assistants core competencies as an example of how the MSW competencies will be developed.	
<b>7</b>	<b>Next Steps</b> Agreed as actions below.	
<b>8</b>	<b>Dates &amp; times of future meetings</b> Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 10-12 Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 10-12 Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 2-4pm	
<b>9</b>	<b>Any other Business</b> As no other business discussed, FMcC closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their cooperation in getting the work to this stage.	
<b>Action</b>		<b>Comment</b>
	<b>Completed/ On-going</b>	
FB to share wording with SG &WG for forward circulation to the MSLCs & other forums	FB	
MMcK to confirm email address	MMcK	
MC to forward name of hospital based MSW	MC	
KM to forward Scottish Final Report to FMcC/DF and FB	KM	