

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

Seventh meeting of the Steering Group

Friday 21st April at 10.00am-11.30 via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Dawn Ferguson, Ass Dir of Nursing & Midwifery, Workforce and Education (Co-Chair) SHSCT	DF
Fionnuala McCluskey, Midwifery Support Officer (Co-Chair) DoH	FMcC
Heather Watson, Consultant Midwife, Deputy Head of Midwifery, BHSCT	HW
Aislinn McAlister, WPD Representative (DoH)	AMcA
Shirley Stronge, Senior Education Manager, CEC	SS
Brenda McClafferty (on behalf of Maureen Miller, Head of Midwifery, WHSCT	BMcC
Wendy Clarke, Head of Midwifery, SHSCT	WC
Karen Murray, NI Director, RCM	KM
Janine Stockdale, Lead Midwife for Education, QUB	JS
Anne Shine, Head of Service, Employee Resourcing and Medical Human Resources	AS
Fiona Bradley Senior Professional Officer, Project Lead, NIPEC	FB
Linda Woods, Administrative Assistant, NIPEC (note taker)	

Apologies: -

Helen Weir, Head of Midwifery, NHSCT
 Dr Jenny McNeill, Lead Midwife for Education/Senior Lecture
 Monica Johnston, Staff Tutor, OU
 Dr Alison Little, Midwife Consultant, PHA
 Brenda Kelly, Head of Midwifery, BHSCT
 Dale Spence, Midwifery Officer, DoH

Agenda Item	Notes	Action by
1.	Welcome FMcC welcomed everyone to the final MSW Steering Group meeting.	
2.	Apologies As above.	
3.	Previous notes (11th October 2022) and associated actions The last Steering Group was held on the 11 th October 2022 and the previous meeting on 25 th November 2022 was not quorate. Amendment noted on notes as Karen Murray, NI Director, RCM. Associated actions were noted as being completed.	
4.	Feedback from MSW Working Group – (4th April 2023) HW gave feedback on the MSW Working Group held on 4 th April 2023. The meeting was not quorate but went ahead as no decisions were to be made. FB gave a succinct presentation on the draft Final Project Report and Recommendations. Lengthy discussion took place around the options to be offered to DoH.	

<p>5.</p>	<p>Update since last MSW Steering Group Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper prepared (Dec 22) and forwarded to the CNO (DoH) outlining the short, medium and long-term concerns and possible solutions for the current model to deliver the regional MSW education programme (which is unsustainable past June 2023) and lack of a career pathway for MSW to progress in their professional career pathway • Meeting held with Dale Spence (DoH) on 18th January 2023 to discuss interim and long-term model for delivery of MSW education programme • CNO has requested the CEC to extend their input of 5 education programmes in the MSW Programme for the academic year 2023/24 with the funding arrangements to be obtained from the Service Level Arrangement between the CEC and the HSC Trusts • The Vocational Workforce Assessment Centre (VWAC) have agreed to deliver the clinical skills aspects for the additional RQF units, i.e. physiological measurements (adult and infant) and venepuncture with help from another programme assessor from VWAC for 23/24 • It was agreed that the following two options for the model to provide the MSW education programmes should be considered: - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One midwife/peripatetic teacher working within the VWAC responsible for teaching and administration of the MSW programme with support from five assistant midwife/peripatetic assessors, (one from each of the HSC Trusts). 2. Five midwife/peripatetic teachers/assessors from each of the HSC Trusts, teaching on different aspects of the programme and managed centrally in VWAC. • MSW JD – under consideration • Draft Training and Competency Skills booklet was sent out to MSW Steering Group – no comments received back. Already successfully tested with MSWs and midwives from the Working Group. <p>FMCC concluded that the CEC would not be able to continue providing support to the MSW education programme past 2024 and that a new model would need to be established for 2024/2025. It was agreed that the work completed within the MSW project would be as Phase 1. Phase 2 would be established to consider the different options for the model and develop a Business Case for presentation to Dr Dale Spence (DOH) and the Workforce Policy Directorate (DoH).</p> <p>The members agreed that the momentum needs to continue in order to achieve the required results.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Summary of MSW work completed with final products and recommendations</p> <p>FB shared a powerpoint presentation with the members on the MSW project with its outputs and recommendations. Members thanked FB for collating all the work carried out to achieve the finished result.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Next Steps</p> <p>MSW Products and Final Report with recommendations to be presented at CNO Business Meeting before being submitted to CNO and Director for WPD for approval. Following agreement, official launch and dissemination of MSW products to take place.</p> <p>It was agreed that the programme should go ahead in September 2023 and if necessary ahead of the official launch. DF informed the Group that initial</p>	

	<p>negotiations had taken place regarding a further assessor to support VWAC in SHSCT.</p> <p>FB suggested that that midwives in the Trusts may need short awareness sessions on the new MSW training and competency skills booklet.</p> <p>DF suggested that a short presentation could be given at the next Regional Maternity Support Workers Meeting on the 9th May 2023. KM asked if the Practice Education Teams could be given this remit. DF to consider this possibility.</p> <p>FMcC suggested that FB presentation would be put up on the NIEC Website for staff.</p> <p>FMcC noted that AMcA to forward a business case template.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>FMcC thanked LW for her support with the administration support on this project.</p>	

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