

MIDWIFERY

2020

The Future of the Profession

Winter 2009: Issue 3

A word from Professor Cathy Warwick, General Secretary, Royal College of Midwives ...

'2020 may seem a long time away to midwives across the country who are doing their very best to cope with the UK's rising birth-rate, provide high quality care and to develop evidence-based midwifery services. However, as we all know time speeds by. It is vital that we take time out of our busy lives to think about the future and to ensure that in a rapidly changing world we maximise the contribution that midwives can make to delivering health services that are world class.

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The key issues arising from the Workstreams' Interim Reports



Professor Cathy Warwick

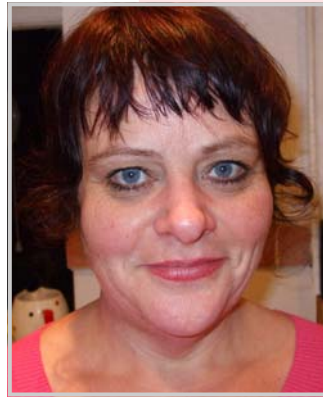
I see Midwifery 2020, therefore, as a critical piece of work. The project timeline is tight and I was pleased to hear at the most recent UK Programme Board that all of the five workstreams: the Core Role of the Midwife, Workforce and Workload, Education and Career Progression, Measuring Quality and Public Health, are managing to keep to the demanding project outline. The challenge facing these work streams, however, cannot be underestimated. Not only is a lot of their work interdependent but often outputs will depend on reaching a consensus across the four countries of the UK and between differing professional perspectives on how midwives should work and on which issues are of most importance.

If we are to produce a piece of work which will have maximum impact, as we move through this project our communication will have to be first class, we will have to share information widely, have open and transparent discussions and agree to a plan for the way forward. It is interesting that the skills required to achieve this are exactly those that women require from their midwives. We should be able to achieve success.'

MIDWIFERY 2020

The Chairs of two of the
Midwifery 2020
Worksteams and the
Head of Midwifery at the
NMC share their thoughts
and ideas on the work of
the programme ...

Core Role of the Midwife



Polly Ferguson
*Chair, Core Role of the
Midwife*

'The Core Role of the Midwife paper is in its final stages of completion. When a group of midwives from across the UK meet to discuss this, you can imagine the debate. Midwives are passionate people and want to express their ideas, their discontent and their vision for the future.

This group is no different. We have had fascinating and challenging debate and in a sense come full circle. Members of the group want to ensure that midwives can practice as midwives - not ward clerks or cleaners, or nurses or computer technicians. They understand and value all those roles and appreciate that they are all required. But, a midwife cannot take on all this and care for women in a manner that ensures women are cared for and nurtured through pregnancy, birth and the postnatal period. Many of you have expressed this view through the website and I can assure you that your

opinions have been heard and noted.

When the paper is published, I hope midwives agree that although our paper might be stating the obvious, the obvious still needs stating. Midwives want to focus midwifery care on maximising the possibility of normal pregnancy, childbirth and postnatal wellbeing within a context of birth as a life event where the physical, spiritual and emotional aspects are equally important, safety is paramount and women feel a sense of privacy and dignity. If we are to do this well, we have to be single minded and focus on just that.'

Nursing & Midwifery Council



Christina McKenzie
Head of Midwifery, NMC
'I've been looking through the first report of the

Central Midwives Board (CMB) published in 1908 when not a single midwife was evident amongst those who were defining our policy and regulation. Changed days indeed when every single midwife in the UK is now able and welcomed to contribute to the thinking and shape of the future by participation and comment on the work

and outputs of Midwifery 2020 and indeed the regulation that governs us.

Sadly some things seem not to have altered since that time in that the CMB reported that although there were some 15,000 midwives on the England register only 13,000 were known to practise, with

☞ (continued page 3)

Workforce and Workload



Malcolm Wright
Chair, Workforce and Workload

'The work of the *Workforce and Workload* workstream is now well underway and is linking in closely with other workstreams including the Core Role of the Midwife, Education and Career Progression, Measuring Quality and Public Health.

We are currently collecting data across the UK from the Health Departments, NMC, local supervising authorities, lead midwives in education for the higher education institutions and general population and demographic data. We are working closely with the information services division of NHS National Services Scotland who are both collecting and analysing data including numbers of midwives submitting an intention to practice by LSA and Trust, trends country by country, age profiles, retiral rates and turnover. We are also

conducting work on attrition rates and we plan that the analysis of this baseline data will inform the work of the Programme Board and the other workstreams.

Once there is further clarity on the outcomes of the other workstreams we will be able to use the modelling work that we have developed to further refine the data.



Nursing & Midwifery Council (continued)

(continued from page 2)
the result that the board was working to find ways to attract, train and keep enough midwives to ensure safe care for women and babies. Thankfully, colleagues from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales were also being trained and were able to register as midwives in ensuing years.

Midwifery 2020 is a golden opportunity for midwives to work with women and families in the UK to define the future education, sphere of practice and opportunities for development and progression of midwifery and midwives. The challenge is, I believe, to think beyond what is happening now in the health services across the

UK and to define what could be and how we might work towards that.

It's a huge challenge but looking at our history one we are well up to and can meet so please take this opportunity to contribute. '



MIDWIFERY 2020

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Calendar of Events 2009/2010

UK Programme Board

4/5 February 2010 —
Edinburgh

10 June 2010 — London

9 September 2010 — tbc

NB: There will also be a series of cross-country events for summer of 2010, details tbc.

Steering Groups

England (London)

19 January 2010

22 April 2010

Northern Ireland (Belfast)

12 January 2010

13 April 2010

Workstream Groups

Public Health (Edinburgh)

10 December 2009

21 January 2010

26 February 2010

26 March 2010

Workforce & Workload
(Edinburgh)

18 December 2009

29 January 2010

10 February 2010

29 March 2010

Measuring Quality (London)

4 December 2009



18 January 2010

11 March 2010

Core Role of the Midwife
(Cardiff)

16 December 2009

3 February 2010

Education and Career Progression (London)

16 December 2009

17 February 2010

23 March 2010

Stakeholders

Consultant Midwives

Council of Deans

Heads of Midwifery

Independent Midwives

Lead Midwives for Education

Maternity Care Assistants

Midwives in Clinical Practice

National Childbirth Trust

NHS Chief Executives, Human Resource and Nurse Directors

Nursing and Midwifery Council

Royal College of Anaesthetics

Royal College of General Practitioners

Royal College of Midwives

Royal College of Nursing

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

Student Midwives

UK Local Supervising Authority Midwifery Officers

UK Chief Nursing Officers

User representatives



HSC Health and Social Care
in Northern Ireland

