

## **Advanced practice: Public Advisory Group (APPAG) Terms of Reference**

### **1. Introduction**

Experienced nurses and midwives are increasingly taking on complex, autonomous and expert roles commonly referred to as 'advanced practice'. But it's unclear whether people who use services and the public understand the advanced practitioner's role and what it means for them.

Our 2020-2025 strategy commits to undertaking a comprehensive review of advanced practice with a consideration of whether additional regulation is needed. As we consider the range of options available to us, any changes we make must benefit the public and people receiving care from advanced practitioners.

The corporate plan for 2022/2023 included a discovery phase during which we commissioned two independent research organisations (Nuffield Trust & Britain Thinks) to undertake work on our behalf.

The findings from the discovery phase of the project provides us with an initial evidence base that has enabled us to identify additional key lines of enquiry (KLOEs) which we are committed to exploring further before providing an update on progress to the Council in September 2023, and finalising options and recommendations we will take to the Council in January 2024.

[You can read more information on our website here.](#)

An independent steering group will consider the findings from the independent research and outcomes of our key lines of enquiry and a range of options that are being proposed. The group will make recommendations to the NMC's Executive Board the future options for regulating advanced practice. The steering group will have a representative from a charity/advocacy group.

### **2. Purpose of the Advanced Practice Public Advisory Group (APPAG)**

The purpose of the group is to provide advice on whether additional regulation of advanced practice is needed to the NMC and the independent steering group. The APPAG will support the steering group by providing a wider range of public perspectives into the project. The group will help to ensure this work is centred on for the needs,

perspectives and experiences of the public and people who use the services of advanced practice nurses and midwives.

In particular, the group will:

- help us further understand people's experiences and expectations of care by professionals in advanced practice roles
- provide public input into the KLOEs we're considering during the first phase of the project (from June 2023-January 2024)
- share views on the potential options for additional regulation of advanced practice
- support wider engagement of the work
- receive regular updates on the progress of the work
- explore early testing/sense checking concepts, ideas, processes
- review outputs from the work
- make recommendations to the Steering Group

APPAG members are expected to:

- have time to attend and participate in meetings, including pre-reading some materials
- be open regarding any potential conflicts of interest
- commit to sharing views and taking part as fully as possible
- actively participate in an environment that is safe and inclusive for everyone
- work in ways which uphold the NMC's values and our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.

### **3. Membership**

The group will include both:

- Individuals with experience of receiving care from NMC professionals in advanced practice roles or who wish to share their experience of health and social care. We plan to recruit via our partners in relevant user groups and charity/advocacy groups.
- Representatives of charity/advocacy groups for conditions or communities where professionals in advanced practice roles often lead and provide care (e.g. cancer, dementia, children's health, mental health, etc).

In line with our co-production principles, we'll invite members to join the group for one or more of the following reasons:

- Their connection to a particular community
- Their background or lived experience

- Their professional position

We recognise our responsibility to be inclusive and involve a diverse range of external partners including those with different protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 and equivalent legislation in Northern Ireland, people from all four nations of the UK, people with different lived experience and people from different socioeconomic backgrounds.

#### **4. Reporting**

The group will be co-hosted by Paul Edwards, Director of Clinical Services at Dementia UK and Paula McLaren, NMC Senior Advanced Practice Advisor. NMC colleagues will attend all meetings and take notes. Two members of the group will also be part of the independent steering group, where they will reflect the views and concerns of APPAG in the independent steering group.

The APPAG will report into the Steering Group (see Governance diagram in Appendix One)

#### **5. Frequency/duration of meetings**

We expect that the APPAG will meet to align with reporting to the Steering Group meetings. There will be differing frequency requirements depending on each phase of the project.

Initially the group will meet for two hours every four-six weeks. We'll review this in January 2024 after Council's decision.

#### **6. Quorate**

As it is an advisory group there is no official quorum.

#### **7. Payment policy**

Members may be eligible to receive payment for expenses and involvement in line with our involvement payment and expenses policy. This would be at a rate of £150 for a full day of engagement (four hours or more); £75 for a half day (four hours or less); or £15 per hour for ad hoc engagements. Involvement payments will only be made to members who are participating because of their background, lived experience or their connection to a particular community.

If you require guidance information on welfare benefits regulations please follow this link to - [Payment guidance for members of the public considering involvement in research \(welfare benefits regulations\)](#).

Members who are there to provide input based on their personal experience will usually receive payment. This may on occasion also be relevant to other group members who are not being paid for their time by their employer or another organisation.

For the avoidance of doubt, anyone who sits on a strategic group in a professional capacity and is expected to speak on behalf of their organisation/employer when in the group will not receive an involvement payment

We will always make it clear whether you are eligible for involvement payments when inviting you to participate.

## **8. Timeline**

During the remainder of 2023 we'll be considering the KLOEs to help Council make a decision in January 2024 as to whether we should additionally regulate advanced practice. We'll update the timeline for the remainder of the project following that decision.

# Annexe One

## Advanced Practice Project Governance

