

Terms of Reference for the review team

The NMC sets the rules and standards for the function of the Local Supervising Authorities (LSAs) which are detailed in the Midwives Rules and Standards. The NMC has a duty to verify that the LSAs are meeting the required rules and standards and this will be achieved through the “*NMC framework for reviewing LSAs*”.

The purpose of the review is to examine the function of the LSA (which is an organisation) and verify that the LSA is meeting the required standards. It also enable concerns that may impact upon protection of the public and safety of women and their families to be reviewed.

The review will target serious issues and concerns identified in the LSA profile but may also include exploration of key themes highlighted by the NMC. The review aims to be both formative (an aid to development) and summative (a check that a required standards are being met).

It is important that the review has the scope to explore the function of statutory supervision of midwives and where applicable practice of maternity services in relation to supervision. This enables consideration of the context in which the LSA is functioning and to triangulate information.

The review team will verify that the Midwives rules and standards are being met.

In order to do this the reviewers may:

- Review
 - The function of the Local Supervising Authority
 - The function of statutory supervision of midwives
 - Information from the LSA profile and self assessment form
 - Concerns raised to the NMC which may affect safety of women and babies.
 - Concerns in relation to the learning environment of student midwives
 - Evidence provided by the LSA

- Explore key themes identified by the NMC.
- Visit one or more maternity services either to enable access to the review by service users and lay organisations or because it is deemed appropriate to inform the review.
- Meet with stakeholder groups that may include LSAMOs, midwives, supervisor of midwives, users of maternity services, lay organisations and representatives, Heads of Midwifery, Directors of Nursing, Chief Executive of Maternity Services or the SHA/LSA, Department of Health Advisors etc.
- Consider examples of best practice within the function of the LSA.

The review will be undertaken by a team who have been trained by the NMC for this purpose and will include:

- a midwife
- a lay reviewer
- a LSAMO
- a NMC Midwifery advisor