

Terms of Reference

Midwifery Strategic Advisory Group

- 1 The Midwifery Strategic Advisory Group (formerly Midwifery Panel) was established to advise the Executive Board of the Nursing and Midwifery Council about midwifery in the UK following the cessation of the NMC's statutory Midwifery Committee.

Remit

- 2 The remit of the Midwifery Strategic Advisory Group (MSAG) is to:
 - Ensure that the expertise, evidence, experience and knowledge from midwifery stakeholders informs and challenges all that we do as we regulate, support and influence.
 - Actively involve midwifery stakeholders in co-producing the NMC's strategic work about future midwifery regulation in the UK.
 - Enable the NMC to utilise a collaborative, consultative space for discussion to work together with our midwifery stakeholders, including professionals, partners and the public, to develop NMC strategic policy and operational decisions, helping us support safe, effective and kind midwifery.

3 Responsibilities

- The Midwifery Strategic Advisory Group will inform and advise the Midwifery Team (the Professional Practice directorate's Assistant Director for Midwifery and two Senior Midwifery Advisers for Policy and Education), the Executive Board (EB) and Council at the NMC on midwifery matters across the UK.
- Members will use their knowledge, skills and expertise to contribute to the maintenance and development of midwifery regulation within the organisation.
- The Council may also co-opt the panel to directly contribute, oversee and report on midwifery matters, policy or standards as required.

Membership

- The independent Chair and the members of the Panel are appointed by the responsible NMC Executive Director (the Executive Nurse Director of Professional Practice).
- The Chair will be independently appointed and will have an initial 3-year tenure which can be extended once.
- The Chair of the Midwifery Strategic Advisory Group will work with the Midwifery Team on any recruitment of members to MSOG.
- The Midwifery Strategic Advisory Group will consist of 70% registrant and 30% people with lived experience whose experiences will inform the work of

the NMC. The membership will not exceed 24 members from all parts of the UK.

- 4 In appointing members, the following will be observed:
- 4.1 Each member will bring their own expertise and experience, seeking wider views as required to input to the panel.
 - 4.2 Each member should fall within the four membership types as outlined below.
 1. **People invited due to their professional position whilst in a particular role.** Should a member leave this position, their successor will be entitled to take up the place on our engagement groups.
 - a. They are expected to speak on behalf of their organisation or employer when in the group.
 - b. They are expected to send a deputy if unable to attend a meeting.
 2. **People invited due to their professional expertise, experience, background and/or training (including students).**
 - a. They contribute based on their individual experience and expertise.
 - b. They may occasionally send a deputy if unable to attend a meeting
 3. **People invited due to their connection to a particular community to reflect their views and experiences.** This connection may be through employment or membership of a particular network or group.
 - a. They may send a deputy if unable to attend a meeting.
 4. **People invited due to their background or lived experience to provide input based on their personal experience only.**
 - a. There is no obligation to send a deputy if unable to attend a meeting
 - 4.3 Ensuring that the Midwifery Strategic Advisory Group's membership reflects the midwifery profession across the four countries of the UK, and the women and families midwives care for is a key priority. We will consider and review a group's membership, seeking members with diverse experiences, backgrounds and opinions. We do not expect members to be responsible for reflecting the entire community (or communities) they identify with.
 - 4.4 We expect all members to consider equality, diversity and inclusion during discussion, regardless of their background or experience.

Quorum

- The quorum for this Committee is no less than two-thirds of the membership
- The Chair may invite such other persons to its meetings as deemed appropriate to observe or to present on a specific agenda item.

Frequency of meetings

- Meetings will meet no less than four times a year
- Meetings may be held in-person or by video/teleconference as agreed by the Chair of the Midwifery Strategic Advisory Group.

Servicing

- The secretariat support will be provided by the midwifery team in Professional Practice.
- The agenda items will be agreed by the Chair in consultation with the Professional Practice directorate's Executive Nurse Director and the Assistant Director (AD) for Midwifery.
- The secretariat shall ordinarily circulate draft notes within two weeks of that meeting to the members, with that summary to be placed on the website once notes are agreed following the next meeting.

Review

- These terms of reference will be reviewed each year as part of an effectiveness review.
- This review will include the attendance of Midwifery Strategic Advisory Group members.

Reporting

- An annual midwifery report will be presented to Council by the responsible Executive Director.

Members

(A) Public voice members

2 Black and minority ethnic midwifery network representatives

1 Mental health in childbirth support representative

1 Vulnerable women's advocates representative

1 Human rights in childbirth representative

1 Pregnancy complications, miscarriage, stillbirth and premature birth representative

1 Supporting people as they become parents representative

4 Country Maternity and Neonatal Voices Partnerships (MNVP), or equivalents such as Maternity Services Liaison Committee (MSLC), representatives

(= 11)

(B) Professional members

4 UK Chief Midwifery Officers

2 higher education representatives (LME and Council of Deans)

1 UK Midwifery Professors representative

1 RCM representative

1 RCN representative

2 UK DoM/HoM representatives (for the 4 countries)

1 UK Consultant Midwife Representative

1 EDI representative

1 student midwife representative

(= 14)

(C) Other members

1 CEO and Registrar of NMC

1 Executive Nurse Director for Professional Practice

3 Midwifery team, Professional Practice

1 Strategy and Insight stakeholder representative

(D) Standard invitation

Executive Director of Communications and Engagement

Executive Director for Strategy and Insight

Executive Director for Professional Regulation

(E) Observers (limited to 5)

Midwife Council member or associate

Midwifery students as agreed with the Chair