

Approved education institution	University of Nottingham
Programmes monitored	Registered midwife – 36M BSc (Hons) Midwifery
Date of monitoring visit	12-15 December 2023
Lead QA visitor	Patricia Hibberd
Lay visitor(s)	Sifelani Chikunya
Registrant visitor(s)	Sarah Snow Suzanne Crozier
Observer(s)	Ian Felstead-Watts (Mott MacDonald) Sophia Hunt (Nursing and Midwifery Council) (NMC) Caroline Dobson (NMC)
Practice learning partner organisation visits undertaken during the review	University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust (UHDB) Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (NUH)
Date of report	08 January 2024

Introduction

This document is a summary explaining our Quality Assurance (QA) process for monitoring education institutions and their practice learning partners. We also explain why we commissioned a monitoring visit of the University of Nottingham by independent visitors and its findings. For the full independent report please click [here](#). Throughout this period, we have welcomed the cooperation of the University of Nottingham and the NHSE WTE team in the Midlands.

The University of Nottingham are an approved education institution (AEI) in the Midlands region, approved to deliver pre-registration nursing, pre-registration midwifery and post-reg provision.

Following receipt of an exceptional report in November 2020 from the University of Nottingham, the NMC were made aware that the CQC had carried out an unannounced focused inspection into maternity services at the Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. This resulted in the CQC issuing two

regulatory notices under Section 31 (of the Health and Social Care Act 2008), which imposed conditions on the registration as a service user in respect of a regulated activity, and Section 29a which describes that the regulated activity requires significant improvement. With growing concerns regarding the trust, the Education QA board took the decision to undertake an extraordinary review at the University of Nottingham in July 2022. To view the full report please click the [link](#).

In October 2022, the Education QA Board agreed that a listening event should take place in early 2023. The purpose would be to review the impact of the AEIs extraordinary review action plan and risk mitigations. The listening event took place in March 2023. Visitors spoke to students, senior practice representatives, practice assessors and practice supervisors. The focus of the listening event and risks indicators were: effective partnership working; collaboration, culture, communication and resources and education governance; communication and quality assurance. The full report can be view on the NMC website by clicking on this [link](#).

Following review of the listening event report the Education QA board recommended a further monitoring visit to be held in December 2023 to gain assurance that the standards for education and training were being met. The link to the full independent monitoring visit report can be found by clicking this [link](#).

The NMC

As the professional regulator of nurses and midwives in the UK, and nursing associates in England, we work to ensure these professionals have the knowledge and skills to deliver consistent, quality care that keeps people safe.

We set the education standards professionals must achieve to practise in the United Kingdom. When they have shown both clinical excellence and a commitment to kindness, compassion, and respect, we welcome them onto our register of more than 788,000 professionals.

Once registered, nurses, midwives and nursing associates must uphold the standards and behaviours set out in our Code so that people can have confidence that they will consistently receive quality, safe care wherever they're treated. We promote lifelong learning through revalidation, encouraging professionals to reflect on their practice and how The Code applies in their day-to-day work.

Our role in the quality assurance of education

We set the standards of education and training that enable students to achieve our standards of proficiency before joining the register. We approve education institutions to deliver nursing, nursing associate or midwifery programmes. As part of our ongoing educational quality assurance (QA), we monitor all of our approved education institutions (AEIs) and their practice learning partners (PLPs) to ensure they continue to meet our standards.

Our QA framework and accompanying QA handbook provide detail on the QA process and the evidence education institutions need to demonstrate to satisfy us that they meet our standards for education and training.

Where we have concerns that an approved education institution may not be meeting our standards, we may seek an independent QA visitors' report by way of a monitoring visit or an extraordinary review, and we may even decide to withdraw approval of the programme and/or an institution. Internally we have a QA Board which provides oversight of our ongoing education QA activity, and our Professional Practice directorate provides regular updates to our Council in relation to our QA activities.

Background

On 6 June 2022, the Education QA Board made the decision to undertake an extraordinary review of the pre-registration midwifery programme at the University of Nottingham. On 15 June 2022, the AEI were notified of the intention to undertake an extraordinary review.

The extraordinary review took place on 26 – 28 July 2022. As part of the review, visits were also made to seven practice learning partners (Nottingham City Hospital, South Glade Medical Practice, Stenhouse Medical Centre, Queens Medical Centre, Mary Potter Health Centre, West Bridgford Medical Centre, Orchard Surgery).

The extraordinary review found that the AEI had systems and processes in place to monitor and control the following risk themes to meet NMC standards and assure protection of the public:

- Selection, admission and progression
- Practice learning
- Assessment, fitness to practice and award.

The extraordinary review found the following key risk themes weren't controlled:

- Effective partnership working: collaboration, culture, communication and resources
- Educational governance: management and QA

The listening event took place on 9 March 2023. Visitors spoke to students, senior practice representatives, practice assessors and practice supervisors.

The focus of the listening event and risks indicators were:

- Effective partnership working: collaboration, culture, communication and resources.
- Education governance: communication and quality assurance.

The visitors also focussed on the impact of the actions taken since July 2022.

At its meeting on 24 May 2023, the Education QA Board reviewed the report from the listening event. Following this review, the University of Nottingham was informed that the Board was not assured that the standards for education and training were being met and recommended that the University of Nottingham review its current action plan and that a further monitoring visit would take place.

The monitoring review process

The NMC provided the independent QA visit team with a monitoring review plan, which identified the NMC requirements for monitoring, under the five themes of the Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education (SFNME) (NMC, 2018 updated 2023):

1. Learning culture
2. Educational governance and quality
3. Student empowerment
4. Educators and assessors
5. Curricula and assessment

The review plan indicated specific requirements within the Standards framework for the QA visitors to scrutinise and triangulate evidence from findings during the visit.

The QA monitoring visit team included a lead QA visitor, a lay visitor and two registrant visitors with due regard for the programmes under review.

The QA visit team used the review plan to direct their focus for triangulating the evidence in academic and practice learning settings. The QA visit team concluded their findings verbally to the University of Nottingham on the final day of the visit (15 December 2023) and then provided a full a report, mapped against the NMC standards and requirements.

Findings

Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education (SFNME) (NMC, 2018)		
Theme	Risk Indicator	Outcome
1. Learning culture	1.1 The AEI, together with their practice learning partners are unable to evidence that the learning culture prioritises the safety of people, including carers, students and educators, and enables the values of The Code (NMC, 2018) to be upheld.	Standard 1.1 is met

	1.2 The AEI, together with their practice learning partners are unable to evidence that education and training is valued in all learning environments.	Standard 1.2 is met
2. Educational governance and quality	2.1 The AEI, together with their practice learning partners are unable to evidence there are effective governance systems that ensure compliance with all legal, regulatory, professional and educational requirements, differentiating where appropriate between the devolved legislatures of the UK with clear lines of accountability for meeting those requirements and responding when standards are not met, in all learning environments.	Standard 2.1 is met
	2.2 The AEI, together with their practice learning partners is unable to ensure all learning environments optimise safety and quality, taking account of the diverse needs of, and working in partnership with, service users, students and all other stakeholders.	Standard 2.2 is met
3. Student empowerment	3.1 The AEI, together with their practice learning partners is unable to ensure all students are provided with a variety of learning opportunities and appropriate resources which enable them to achieve proficiencies and programme outcomes and be capable of demonstrating the professional behaviours in The Code (NMC, 2018).	Standard 3.1 is met
	3.2 The AEI, together with their practice learning partners is unable to ensure all students are empowered and supported to become resilient, caring, reflective and lifelong learners who are capable of working in inter-professional and inter-agency teams.	Standard 3.2 is met
4. Educators and assessors	4.1 The AEI, together with their practice learning partners is unable to ensure theory and practice learning and assessment are facilitated effectively and objectively by appropriately qualified and experienced professionals with necessary expertise for their educational and assessor roles.	Standard 4.1 is met
5. Curricula and assessment	5.1 The AEI, together with their practice learning partners is unable to ensure that curricula and assessments are designed, developed, delivered and evaluated to ensure that students achieve the proficiencies and outcomes for their approved programme.	Standard 5.1 is met

Standard is met

Standard is not met

Next Steps

The full monitoring visit report was shared with the University of Nottingham on 17 January 2024 for a one-month period of observation. Following the period of observation the report was submitted to the NMC for review at the Education QA board.

As a result of all outcomes being met the Education QA board agreed that appropriate progress was being made and actions has been met.