

## **Public Voice Forum**

Date: 10 March 2022

Time: 14:00–17:00

via GoToMeeting

### **Meeting notes**

#### **Agenda items covered**

##### **1 Welcome**

- Nicola Smith, Assistant Director Stakeholder Engagement, welcomed attendees to the meeting and outlined the agenda and housekeeping items. This was followed by introductions.

##### **2 Introduction to nursing and midwifery standards – presentation and small group discussions**

- Sue West, Senior Nursing Education Advisor, gave an introduction to the nursing and midwifery standards set by the NMC, including the Code, standards of proficiency and programme standards.
- Some of our current programme standards reflect European Union law. As the UK has left the EU, we can now make changes to them.
- The presentation then focussed on the use of simulation in nurse training, as this is an area the NMC is currently consulting stakeholders, and which will be changing.
- In three smaller groups, members shared their views on the use of simulation, focussing on these questions:
  - What do you think about simulation to supplement and support nurses' practice learning?
  - Are there any advantages or disadvantages you see?

#### **Main themes emerging from the group discussions were:**

1. Simulation in learning is useful, especially in the early years of training, but shouldn't replace working with real people – a balance needs to be struck.
2. Simulation cannot replace people, in the sense of diversity of the human body, people's different characteristics, and delivering person-centred care.

Full notes of the discussions are available separately.

## **Actions:**

- Discussion comments will be used to inform the consultation on simulated learning.
- The discussion and questions asked during the presentation will help frame the questions for the wider public consultation survey. The consultation starts in June 2022.
- Public Voice Forum members will be updated as the consultation progresses.

### **3 English language requirements – presentation and small group discussions**

Natasha Dare, Head of Regulatory Policy, gave a presentation on current English language requirements.

- The group were asked to consider and share their thoughts on the following questions:
  - Is being able to communicate well in English important?
  - Do you agree that we should check all four skills:
    - Speaking
    - Listening
    - Reading
    - Writing?
  - Are there other types of evidence you think we should accept?
  - What is the right balance between having high standards and unnecessarily stopping people from practising?

#### **Main themes emerging from the group discussions were:**

- Being able to communicate in English is important but other factors such as people's accents are also important.
- All skills – writing reading, speaking and listening - should be checked.
- There is a balance between ensuring people have the right skills and ensuring that we have enough staff, given pressures on workforce.

Full notes of the discussions are available separately.

## **Actions**

- Discussion comments will be used to inform the consultation on English language requirements.
- Public Voice Forum members will be updated as the consultation progresses.

#### **4 NMC and Me – public perceptions and understanding**

- Kirsten Van Balen, Head of Strategic Communications, talked through the findings of recent research conducted on behalf of the NMC.
- The research focused on members of the public's views on health and care, general awareness and understanding of the NMC, and their desire to engage with the organisation.
- The group shared their initial thoughts on what the research revealed and how it could be used.

#### **Main themes emerging from the group discussions were:**

- The research confirms that, generally, the public doesn't know about the NMC and its work.
- The NMC needs to raise awareness and increase understanding.
- There is also work to do in regards to the NMC's relationship with registrants, who often view the organisation negatively, and/or don't have a sense of what they get for their registration fees.

Full notes of the discussions are available separately.

#### **Actions**

- This item was the beginning of an ongoing conversation with Public Voice Forum members, as we develop our audience plans and NMC and Me work.

#### **5 A word of thanks from Andrea Sutcliffe**

- Andrea Sutcliffe, Chief Executive and Registrar, gave a brief message of gratitude to the group, thanking them for their ongoing commitment and engagement.
- Andrea also commented on how interesting and valuable everything we heard from members today was.

#### **6. Updates**

- Luis Perpetuo, Public Engagement Manager, gave a brief update:
  - Protecting the title of 'nurse' – consultation continues with nursing and midwifery professionals, and external organisations.
  - Membership of the Public Voice Forum – we continue to work to increase the number of members, and are especially keen to engage people in Northern Ireland and Scotland.
  - Members were invited to make suggestions of anyone they know that they think would be a good fit for the group.