



Programme Audit/Major Modification report

Programme provider:	Nottingham, University of	
In partnership with: (Associated practice placement providers involved in the delivery of the programme)	Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	
Date of review:	04 Jun 2019	
Type of Modification	Desktop	
Provision reviewed:	Registered Midwife - 36M	
Title of current programme:	BSc (Hons) Midwifery	
Title of modified programme if changed:		
Academic level of current programme:	England, Wales, Northern Ireland Level 5 Level 6 Level 7 SCQF Level 8 Level 9 Level 10 Level 11	
Academic level of modified programme if changed:	England, Wales, Northern Ireland Level 5 Level 6 Level 7 SCQF Level 8 Level 9 Level 10 Level 11	
Reviewer:	Sheila Brown	





Outcome of Approval Panel Meeting	
Outcome:	Recommended for approval with recommendations
Conditions and NMC	Resources
standard(s)/requirement(s) they relate to:	None identified
	Admission and progression
	None identified
	Practice learning
	None identified
	Fitness for practice
	None identified
	Quality assurance
	None identified
Date conditions to be met:	
Recommendations and NMC standard(s)/requirement(s) they relate to:	Recommendation one: The university is advised to obtain confirmation in writing from Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust that they support the implementation of SSSA. (NMC circular 03/2011)
Note: recommendations will be assessed through the AEI annual self-assessment report	
Date conditions met:	
Programme start date:	23 Sep 2019





Summary

Summary of modification request

The pre-registration BSc (Hons) midwifery programme at the University of Nottingham (UoN) sits within the midwifery department in the school of health sciences. The current programme was approved in June 2015. This major modification is presented for the implementation of the Standards for supervision and assessment (SSSA) (NMC, 2018) to the current approved BSc programme. No changes have been made to the programme learning outcomes.

The following cohorts of students will transfer to the SSSA from September 2019; September 2017, January 2018, September 2018 and January 2019.

The programme documentation confirms evidence of effective partnership working between UoN, practice learning partners (PLPs) and students to support the implementation of the SSSA.

The documentary evidence and online teleconference discussion held with the programme team confirm that the changes required for the transition and implementation of the current pre-registration BSc (Hons) midwifery programme approved against the Standards of pre-registration midwifery education (NMC, 2009) meet the SSSA.

The major modification to the programme is recommended to the NMC for approval. There's one NMC recommendation.

Feedback from key stakeholders

Presenting Team

The presenting team provided the rationale for the proposed implementation of SSSA within the current approved programme and told us this change is in response to PLPs requests. We found that the team are committed to ensuring that student midwives are provided with a supportive learning environment within theory and practice settings and that this commitment is upheld by this proposed modification to the programme.

Mentors, sign-off mentors, practice teachers and employers

There's sufficient documentary evidence and findings from the teleconference held





with the programme team that confirms PLPs support the implementation of the SSSA within the current BSc (Hons) midwifery programme.

Students

The programme team told us that students have been involved in the university discussions with practice learning partners (PLPs) and the subsequent decision and plan to implement SSSA. This was confirmed within the documentary evidence.

Service users and carers

There's evidence of service user involvement in the preparation and implementation of the SSSA within the school of health sciences at UoN.

Examples of notable and innovative practice and standards they relate to

None identified

Potential risks to compliance of education standards and standards they relate to

None identified

Potential risks to the student learning environment and standards they relate to

None identified

Any other risks to public protection

None identified

Areas for future monitoring

- To monitor student experiences following the implementation of SSSA.
- To monitor the experience of practice supervisors, practice assessors and academic assessors following the implementation of SSSA.





Outcome recommendation

This major modification is recommended to the NMC for approval. There's one NMC recommendation.





NMC Standards

Please refer to the <u>Standards for Pre-Registration Midwifery Education (NMC, 2009)</u>, current programme specific circulars accessed via the <u>NMC Website</u>, EU Directive 2005/36/EC Article 41 (1) and Article 31 (6-7), and Section one of the Mott MacDonald <u>QA Handbook</u>.

Standards for the lead midwife for education		
Standard 1: Appointment of the lead midwife for education		
The NMC requires an a	approved educational institution (AEI) to do the following:	
Appoint a lead midwife for education (LME) who is a practising midwife and has a recorded midwifery teaching qualification on the NMC register.		
Confirm the appointment of an LME with the NMC		
Use the LME for strategic liaison with external agencies such as purchasers of education provision for all matters affecting midwifery education.		
What we found:		
Unchanged since the original approval, 16 June 2015.		
Outcome:	Standard met	
Date standards		
met:		
Revised outcome:		





Standard 2: Development, delivery and management of midwifery education programmes

The LME shall lead the development, delivery and management of the midwifery education programmes provided by the AEI, ensuring that they comply with the standards established by the NMC.

What we found:

Documentary evidence and discussion at the teleconference with the programme team confirm that the lead midwife for education (LME) has led the development of the modification to the current BSc (Hons) midwifery programme to ensure compliance with SSSA. The LME has worked in partnership with the midwifery education team, student midwives and PLPs. It's evident that the LME is involved in the development, delivery and management of the midwifery programme and in the plans for a new curriculum.

Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards	
met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 3: Signing the supporting declaration of good health and good character

In accordance with rule 6(1)(a)(ii) of the registration rules, the LME shall be responsible, at her discretion, for signing the supporting declarations of good health and good character for all midwifery applications to the register.

What we found:

Unchanged since the original approval, 16 June 2015.

Outcome: Standard met





Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standards for admission to, and	continued	participation in,	pre-registration
midwifery programmes			

Age of entry

St. 4

General requirements

The following requirements for selection should be read and operated alongside programme providers' existing policies and procedures:

4.1 Selection

Wherever practicable, the selection process should include a face-to-face meeting.

Programme providers (AEIs and their service partners) are encourage, wherever possible, to involve lay people and midwifery students in the selection process. Depending on local circumstances they may be involved directly or indirectly in selection.

All individuals in the selection process should receive appropriate training, preparation and updating which includes equality and diversity.

Representatives of partner service provider organisations should be directly involved in the selection process.

The views of the individuals directly involved in selecting applicants should be taken into account when making final decisions on whether to accept or reject an applicant.

4.2 Literacy and numeracy

AEIs are required to ensure that applicants for pre-registration midwifery education programmes have provided evidence of literacy and numeracy that includes prior





achievement of basic skills sufficient to undertake a pre-registration midwifery programme of education to a satisfactory level of attainment.

4.3 Good health and good character

Applicants must demonstrate that they have good health and good character sufficient for safe and effective practice as a midwife, on entry to, and for continued participation in, programmes leading to registration with the NMC.

Applicants from overseas must meet the good health and good character as defined for UK applicants and additionally those requirements set out by the UK government for healthcare workers from overseas

4.4 Entry to the register

The NMC requires a self-declaration of good health and good character from all those entering the register for the first time. On completion of the midwifery programme the student will submit this self declaration. The declaration is either supported by the LME, whose name has been notified to the Council and who is responsible for midwifery education in the relevant AEI, or by her designated registered midwife substitute. AEIs must be able to provide evidence of having fulfilled this requirement.

What we found:	
Unchanged since the original approval, 16 June 2015.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards	
met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 5: Interruptions to pre-registration midwifery education programmes





Programme providers must ensure that they have in place processes to manage interruptions to the study of programmes for whatever reason.

When a student returns to a programme it is recommended they have a period of orientation appropriate to the length of interruption. Programme providers must ensure that the student's acquired knowledge and skills remain valid, enabling them to achieve the necessary standards required on completion of the course.

to achieve the necessary standards required on completion of the course.		
What we found:		
Unchanged since the o	original approval, 16 June 2015.	
Outcome:	Standard met	
Date standards met:		
Revised outcome:		
Standard 6: Admission with advanced standing		
All applicants, other than those registered as a nurse level one (adult), must complete a minimum three years full-time pre-registration midwifery programme of education.		
Where a student is already registered with the NMC as a nurse level one (adult), the length of the pre-registration midwifery education programme shall be no less than 18 months full time.		
What we found:		
Unchanged since the original approval, 16 June 2015.		
Outcome:	Standard met	
	1	





Date standards	
met:	
Davised suteems:	
Revised outcome:	
Standard 7: Transfer	between approved educational institutions
It is the responsibility o	of AEIs to decide whether or not to accept an application for
transfer.	
-	
What we found:	
Unchanged since the o	original approval, 16 June 2015.
	on girian approval, 10 cance 2010.
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards	
met:	
Revised outcome:	
Revised outcome.	
	off and stepping on to pre-registration midwifery
education programmes	
Students can 'step off'	a pre-registration midwifery programme of education.
·	
What we found:	
Unchanged since the d	original approval, 16 June 2015.

Outcome:

Standard met





Date standards		
met:		
Revised outcome:		
Standards for the structure and nature of pre-registration midwifery programmes		
Standard 9: Academi	c standard of programme	
Since September 2008 the minimum academic level for entry to the midwives' part of the register for those entering pre-registration midwifery programmes is degree level (NMC Circular 14/2007).		
Scotland – 360 academic credits, 60 of which must be at level nine.		
England, Wales and Northern Ireland – 300 academic credits, 60 of which must be at level H.		
What we found:		
Unchanged since the original approval, 16 June 2015.		
Outcome:	Standard met	
Date standards met:		
Revised outcome:		





Standard 10: Length of programme

Article 31(6-7) of EU Directive 2005/36/EC now describes the length of midwifery programmes in years, months and hours.

The length of a pre-registration midwifery programme of education should be no less than three years (equivalent to 156 weeks full time) and each year shall contain 45 programmed weeks.

Three year direct entry programme – 4,600 hours (minimum requirement)

Where the student is already registered with the NMC as a nurse level one (adult), the length of the pre-registration midwifery programme of education shall not be less than 18 months (equivalent to 78 weeks full time).

Eighteen month midwifery programme (following qualification as an adult nurse) – 3,000 hours (minimum requirement).

What we found:	
Unchanged since the o	original approval, 16 June 2015.
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards	
met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 11: Student support

Midwife teachers and midwife mentors must meet the NMC's standards to support learning and assessment in practice.

What we found:

Assurance has been provided by the midwifery education team, with documentary evidence of agreement with PLPs, that there's a clear strategy for transition





arrangements and preparation of midwives in relation to the SSSA.

There's evidence of locally agreed plans between the UoN and PLPs outlining the transition arrangements for preparation of current mentors to practice supervisors, and of current mentors to practice assessors. Preparation of academic staff to undertake the role of academic assessors has also been outlined. Current mentors will be provided with a three-hour preparation session to transition to the roles of practice supervisor and to the role of practice assessor. New staff will be provided with a one-day preparation session to undertake the role of practice supervisor and a one-day session to undertake the role of practice assessor. Student midwives in UoN will be provided with a one-day preparation session within the pre-registration midwifery programme to prepare them to undertake the role of practice supervisor following completion of their preceptorship. Registered midwives who are band five, six and seven will be prepared to be practice supervisors, and midwives who are band six and seven will be prepared to be practice assessors. PLPs will provide preparation sessions and bi-annual updates for practice supervisors and practice assessors.

Documentary evidence and findings from the approval process confirm that academic assessors will be identified and allocated through the UoN academic assessor allocation process. Existing academic staff who have a recognised teaching qualification will be provided with a three-hour preparation session to support them to undertake the role of academic assessor. Existing or new academic staff who do not hold a teaching qualification will be required to undertake a preparation programme within the UoN to prepare them for the role of academic assessor. UoN plan to hold a database of academic assessors.

PLPs will nominate a designated practice representative who will manage the allocation of students to practice supervisors and to practice assessors. Students will be allocated to a nominated registered midwife practice supervisor for midwifery placements and to another registered health professional recognised as a practice assessor in non-midwifery placements by PLPs. Students will also be allocated to a registered midwife practice assessor. The PLPs will ensure that allocated practice supervisors are not simultaneously the practice assessor for the same student. It's clear from the documentary evidence that processes are in place to ensure students will be allocated a different practice assessor for each subsequent year of the programme. Students will also be allocated to an academic assessor from the midwifery education team. There will be a UoN academic assessor allocation process to ensure that students are allocated to a different academic assessor for each part of the education programme and to ensure that they are not simultaneously undertaking the role of practice supervisor or practice assessor for





the same student.

The practice supervisor will support the student on a day to day basis and liaise directly with the student's allocated practice assessor to ensure continuity of student support, learning and assessment in the practice learning environment. It's clear from the documentary evidence and confirmed by the programme team that communication between the practice assessor and supervisor and also between the practice and academic assessor will be scheduled at intervals and recorded in the practice assessment document. This communication enables monitoring of the student's achievement of the proficiencies and informs evidence-based decisions for the student's progression to the subsequent year of the programme.

Documentary evidence confirms the academic assessor will collate all evidencebased sources about the student's conduct, proficiency and achievement and make recommendations to the assessment board regarding the student's progression.

A handbook for midwives clearly explains the roles of practice supervisor, practice assessor and academic assessor and roles are also clarified in the student facing practice assessment document.

Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards	
met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 12: Balance between clinical practice and theory

Since September 2008, the practice to theory ratio of each programme is required to be no less than 50 percent practice and no less than 40 percent theory.

What we found:

Unchanged since the original approval, 16 June 2015.





Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards	
met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 13: Scope of practice experience

Where the opportunity is available, students should be involved in supporting women birthing in a variety of settings.

Student midwives must be involved in the care of a small group of women throughout their childbirth experience, including antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care.

What we found:

Practice learning opportunities are currently arranged to support students to achieve the requirements of the programme and will remain unchanged from the original programme approval. Students are provided with opportunities to support women birthing in a variety of settings and to care for a small caseload of women.

The documentary evidence and discussion with the programme team provides assurance that the transition arrangements for implementation to the SSSA continues to ensure safe and effective co-ordination of learning within practice environments. The PLPs will nominate a designated practice learning representative in each area to ensure coordination of student/practice learning. This person's title will vary but will be made clear to students during their preparation for practice learning experiences.

Practice learning experiences are designed to meet the learning outcomes and proficiencies of the programme and are tailored to the student's stage of learning and to meet their diverse individual needs. The evidence confirms that students are allocated a practice supervisor and practice assessor for the allocated periods of practice learning. Students have the opportunity to learn and receive feedback from





enable students to raise any concerns about their practice learning.					
We are assured that the complies with SSSA re	ne organisation of practice learning at programme level equirements.				
Outcome:	Standard met				
Date standards met:					
Revised outcome:					
Standard 14: Superni	umerary status during clinical placement				
employed to provide m	ore-registration midwifery education programmes cannot be nidwifery care during their training – all clinical experience ed with students having supernumerary status for the duration.				
What we found:					
Unchanged since the o	original approval, 16 June 2015.				
Outcome:	Standard met				
Date standards met:					
Revised outcome:					





Standard 15: Assessment strategy

Clinical practice must be graded and be counted as part of the academic award.

All outcomes within a progression point period (for example an academic year) have to be achieved and confirmed within 12 weeks of entering the next academic level. All assessments must be completed and have been passed prior to successful completion of the programme.

A student midwife shall achieve these standards under the supervision of a sign-off mentor.

What we found:

We found there's no change to the grading of practice learning or timelines within the assessment strategy.

Practice assessment documents have been updated to outline the roles and responsibilities of the practice learning team (practice supervisors, practice assessors and academic assessors) and their individual contributions to the assessment and progression of students in accordance with the SSSA. The communication between the practice supervisor and practice and academic assessor is recorded in the practice documentation. It's clear that the academic assessor evaluates and confirms student achievement to inform their discussion with the practice assessor to evaluate and make recommendations for progression for each part of the programme.

The evidence provides assurance that the programme complies with SSSA requirements in relation to the assessment and progression of students.

Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards	
met:	
Revised outcome:	





Standard 16: Ongoing record of achievement

An ongoing record of achievement, including comments from mentors, must be passed from one placement to the next to enable judgements to be made on the student's progress.

What we found:

The student's ongoing record of achievement (ORA) has been adapted to enable practice supervisors to contribute to and document observations on the student's conduct, proficiency and achievement. The practice supervisor's contribution to student assessment and progression is also incorporated. The ORA reflects the practice assessor role and the academic assessor's role and contribution.

The evidence provides assurance that the supervision and assessment of practice learning complies with the SSSA requirements.

Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards	
met:	
Revised outcome:	

Achieving the NMC standards

Standard 17: Competencies required to achieve the NMC standards

Students need to be proficient in all standards by the end of their training in order to practise safely and effectively as a midwife without the need for direct supervision. A student must demonstrate competence in these standards to enter the register as a midwife.

What we found:

Unchanged since the original approval, 16 June 2015.





Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards	
met:	
Revised outcome:	

NMC Circular 03/2011

Resources to support programme intentions

Programme providers must provide evidence at programme approval that resources are currently available to support programme intentions.

What we found:

The midwifery education team confirmed that there are suitable systems, processes and staff resources within the AEI and PLP organisations to ensure safe and effective coordination and support of practice learning through the implementation of the SSSA.

Practice learning team meeting minutes provide evidence of AEI support of the implementation of SSSA and of partnership working between the AEI and all PLPs. There are robust mechanisms in place to support student learning in practice to meet the implementation of SSSA. All PLPs, except for Derby Teaching Hospitals and NHS Foundation Trust, provided written confirmation of their support of the implementation of the SSSA including supported time for the practice supervisors and assessors. The programme team were recommended to obtain this written confirmation from Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. (Recommendation one)

The head of school confirmed that there is adequate support within the school to implement SSSA. The programme team confirmed the academic assessor role has been incorporated into academic workload.

Outcome:	Standard met





Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Evidence and references list

NMC programme approval report: midwifery, 5 May 2019

UoN BSc (Hons) midwifery mapping tool submitted by AEI, 3 June 2019

UoN BSc (Hons) midwifery record of major modification teleconference, 4 June 2019

UoN BSc (Hons) midwifery notes from partnership event SSSA implementation, 16 January 2019

UoN BSc (Hons) midwifery notes from partnership event SSSA implementation, 30 April 2019

UoN BSc (Hons) midwifery letters of support from head of midwifery for SSSA, undated

UoN BSc (Hons) midwifery practice learning committee meeting, 13 Dec 2018

UoN BSc (Hons) midwifery letter of support from head of school, 3 April 2019

UoN BSc (Hons) midwifery programme management committee meeting notes, 12 Dec 2018

UoN school of health sciences SSSA preparation and implementation context document, undated

UoN BSc (Hons) midwifery student preparation for SSSA implementation and transfer, undated

UoN BSc (Hons) midwifery overview and timeline to support transfer to SSSA, undated

Pan Midlands, Yorkshire and east practice learning group lesson plans for practice supervisors and assessors, undated

Pan Midlands, Yorkshire and east practice learning group lesson plans to prepare academic assessors, updated and undated





UoN BSc (Hons) midwifery mentor update session, April 2019

UoN BSc (Hons) midwifery practice supervisor and practice assessor 2019 guideline, 4 June 2019

NMC part two: standards for student supervision and assessment, 17 May 2018

UoN BSc (Hons) midwifery programme/student handbook 2018.19, August 2018

UoN BSc (Hons) midwifery case loading document, November 2018

UoN BSc (Hons) midwifery practice assessment document year three e-practice document, April 2019

UoN BSc (Hons) midwifery example of practice module handbook, 2 May 2019

UoN BSc (Hons) midwifery year one ongoing achievement record, undated

Personnel supporting programme approval					
Members of Approval Panel					
NMC QA visitor					
Programme Presenters					
Associate professor and LME, UoN					
Assistant professor division of midwifery, L	JoN				
Director of quality assurance and associate UoN	e professor, school of health sciences,				
Were any service providers visited?					
Not required for this modification.					
Meetings with others					
Mentors / sign-off mentors					
Practice teachers					
Service users / Carers					
Practice Education Facilitator					
Director / manager nursing					
Director / manager midwifery					





Education commissioners or equivalent	
Designated Medical Practitioners	
Other (please specify)	

If there were no representatives present during the approval event please state why:

Not required for this modification.

Meetings with students

Nursing										
Adult	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Y	ear 4		
Mental Health	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Y	ear 4		
Children's	Year 1 Year 2			Year 3		Y	ear 4			
Learning Disabilities	Year 1 Year 2			Yea	r 3		Y	ear 4		
Midwifery (3 year)	Year 1 Yea		Yea	ır 2		Yea	r 3		-	
Midwifery (18 month)	Year 1	Year 1 Year 2								
SCPHN	HV	SN O		ОН	H FI		IN		RPHN	
Learning and Assessment in	Mentor			actice acher			Tea	che	er	





Practice			
Nurse Prescribing	V100	V150	V300
Specialist Practice	Adult	Mental Health	Children's
	Learning Disability	General Practice Nursing	Community Mental Health Nursing
	Community Learning Disabilities Nursing	Community Children's Nursing	District Nursing

Additional evidence viewed

No additional evidence was viewed.

Mott MacDonald Group Disclaimer

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Issue record			
Author:	Sheila Brown	Date:	11 Jun 2019
Checked by:	Bernie Wallis	Date:	01 Aug 2019
Approved by:	Andrea Bacon	Date:	01 Aug 2019
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