

Meeting of  
Lanarkshire NHS Board  
Date 29 October 2008

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**SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATUTORY SUPERVISION OF  
MIDWIFERY IN LANARKSHIRE**

**1. PURPOSE**

The annual report sets out how the responsibilities of the Board have been discharged for the year 2007/08 and is for approval prior to the Chief Executive signing it and submitting it to the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

**2. CONTENT/SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

**2.1 Background**

The practice and supervision of midwifery is regulated by the Nursing and Midwifery Council with legal obligations placed upon Health Boards as local supervising authorities. This supervision is overseen by the Local Supervising Authority Midwifery Officer (LSAMO) for the West of Scotland Region – but in practice it is the Board's Head of Midwifery and its designated supervisors of midwives who carry out the actual supervision.

The primary purpose of supervision of midwives is protection of the public. This is achieved by promoting good practice, preventing poor practice and intervening in unacceptable practice. Supervision is largely developmental: developing clinical policies, providing professional support, reviews of clinical practice and training. There is however, a clear accountability for individual midwives. They cannot practice without formal notification that they intend to do so, their record of professional development is open to inspection and, if required, their practice can be promptly suspended at a local level. This supervision applies to all midwives practising in the Board's area so this includes independent midwives and any practising in private hospitals. Currently three independent midwives notify their intention to practice in Lanarkshire LSA.

**2.2 The Annual Report for 2007/08**

The annual report is attached. It should be noted that it shows, in a misleading way, a colour coding of performance against the midwifery supervision standards; this however, pertains to the West of Scotland region as a whole and to the previous year 2006/07. Annexe A to this paper accurately shows colour coding of the risks specifically associated with Lanarkshire LSA for the relevant year 2007/08. As can be seen, of the 34 standards, 32 are green and only two are amber

### **3. ACTIONS**

The Board will wish to consider endorsing the annual report prepared on its behalf by the LSAMO (Joy Payne), which has the support of the Head of Midwifery before it is signed by the Chief Executive and submitted to the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

Performance in Lanarkshire is of a high order and has been for several years. Lanarkshire is also one of the leading midwifery supervision authorities in Scotland and the UK. This is because successive Heads of Midwifery have shown exemplary leadership in developing midwifery supervision, which is separate and additional to their other responsibilities as the Head of Midwifery and Associate Nurse Director for Women and Diagnostic Services.

### **5. FURTHER INFORMATION**

If Board members wish further information or clarification on any issues please contact Susan Stewart, Head of Midwifery and Associate Director of Nursing, telephone number 01698 366557.

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**Paul Wilson**  
**Executive Director for NMAHPs**  
**8 October 2008**

**LOCAL SUPERVISING AUTHORITY LANARKSHIRE ANNUAL REPORT  
SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST NMC STANDARDS  
April 2007 – March 2008**

## **Background**

The Local Supervising Authority (LSA) is responsible for ensuring that statutory supervision of midwives and midwifery practice as set out in the Nursing and Midwifery Order (2001) and the Nursing and Midwifery Council Midwives Rules and Standards (NMC 2004) is carried out to a satisfactory standard. In the West of Scotland there are four LSA's of which Lanarkshire is one. A full time LSA Midwifery Officer was appointed in 2006 for the West of Scotland who works across all four NHS Boards.

During the reporting year 2006/07 the West of Scotland Region contributed to a NMC pilot review of LSAs to assist the NMC in establishing a mechanism to review LSAs. As part of this pilot the NMC used a risk scoring framework, which was applied to the West of Scotland Region. Risk scores were calculated collectively across the four LSAs in the West of Scotland and not for individual LSAs. The risk scoring referred to within this report is therefore not specific to NHS Lanarkshire. For this reason the following summary has been developed which tracks Lanarkshire LSA progress against NMC standards over the past two reporting years and identifies areas of good practice and areas for improvement specific to NHS Lanarkshire as the Local supervising Authority.

<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>AREAS OF GOOD PRACTICE</b>	<b>AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>STATUS 2006/07 REPORT</b>	<b>STATUS 2007/08 REPORT</b>
1. Each Local Supervising Authority (LSA) will ensure their report is made available to the public	There is a section on the NHSL website for Supervision of Midwifery		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
2. Number of Supervisors of Midwives (SOM) Appointments and Referrals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SOM : Midwife ratio of 1:9</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b> Ratio of 1:15	<b>GREEN</b> Ratio of 1:9
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption of LSAMO Forum UK Guidance for selection and appointment of Supervisors of Midwives (SOMs)</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NHS Lanarkshire representation on the West of Scotland Link Supervisor of Midwives Forum</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
3. Details of how midwives are provided with continuous access to a supervisor of midwives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All midwives have a named SOM</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24 hour on call SOM rota established this reporting year</li> </ul>		<b>AMBER</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student midwives have an allocated SOM</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
4. Details of how the practice of midwives is supervised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standardised approach to audit of supervisory practice adopted across the West of Scotland</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervisory audit not undertaken in 2006/07</li> </ul>	<b>RED</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit undertaken in 2007/08</li> </ul>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standards for supervision of midwifery practice met</li> </ul>		<b>RED</b>	<b>GREEN</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public user involvement in audit process</li> </ul>		<b>RED</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
5.1 Intention to practice process and annual review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Intention to Practice forms signed by SOM</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All midwives had an annual supervisory review</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
5.2 Communication with Supervisors of Midwives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop as part of local SOM meetings</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular risk management report at local SOM meetings</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified SOM on risk management, clinical effectiveness, service improvement groups and MSLC</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>User representation at local SOM meetings</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
5.3 Clinical Governance and risk management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SOM involvement in clinical governance structures</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SOM involvement in risk management investigations</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk management regular agenda item at SOM meetings</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
6. Evidence that service users have been involved in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>User involvement in LSA audit</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>

monitoring supervision of midwives and assisting the LSAMO with annual audits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervision of midwives on NHS Lanarkshire website</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervision of midwives in patient information booklet</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing public awareness of supervision of midwives</li> </ul>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>AMBER</b>
7. Evidence of Engagement with higher education institutions in relation to supervisory input in midwifery education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lecturers in local HEI who are SOMs</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SOM contribution to development and delivery of the preparation programme for supervisors of midwives</li> </ul>		<b>AMBER</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SOM input to pre registration midwifery course</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
8. Details of any new policies related to the supervision of midwifery practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New policies developed by the West of Scotland LSA forum adopted</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some local policies require updating prior to regional policies to be developed</li> </ul>	<b>GREEN</b>	<b>AMBER</b>
9. Evidence of developing trends affecting midwifery practice in the LSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No significant trends identified</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
10. Details of the number of complaints regarding the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No complaints received</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>

discharge of the supervisory function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complaints process defined in SOM guidance</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
11. Reports on all LSA investigations undertaken during the reporting year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West of Scotland guidance adopted</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three supervisory investigations took place in Lanarkshire during this year, which resulted in midwives undertaking a period of supported practice. 2 related to record keeping and one to clinical practice</li> </ul>		<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of a robust mechanism to inform LSAMO or untoward incidents and supervisory action</li> </ul>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>GREEN</b>

**Susan Stewart**  
**Head of Midwifery and**  
**Associate Director of Nursing and Midwifery**  
**13 October 2008**