

Autumn 2009

LOCAL SUPERVISING AUTHORITY MIDWIFERY OFFICERS' FORUM (UK) NEWSLETTER

Issue 9

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I am writing on behalf of the Local Supervising Authority Midwifery Officers (LSAMO) Forum UK. The Forum provides an opportunity for the LSA Midwifery Officers in the UK to meet on a regular basis, to exchange information and share good practice. It also allows the LSAMOs to network with other professional groups including the Nursing and Midwifery Council, Department of Health, Scottish Government, Welsh Government, Northern Ireland Government and the Royal College of Midwives.

One of the many aims of the group is to ensure that the LSAMO Forum UK contributes to maintaining a consistent and equitable approach to supervision through UK-wide guidance and other publications and to ensure that LSAMOs are involved in contributing to professional debate and decision making at local and national levels. Achievement of this aim has ensured that support for supervisors and midwives' in the UK is continually enhanced.

LSA Forum UK contributions to Midwifery Conferences

Various members of the Forum are contributing to various speaking events such as the Nursing and Midwifery Council midwifery conference in Belfast and the Royal College of Midwives Annual Conference in Manchester later this autumn. Plans are also well established for the LSA Biennial Conference for 22nd April 2010 in Nottingham. These will all be excellent opportunities for Statutory Supervision to be discussed and debated with many examples of good practice being showcased.

The LSAMO Forum (UK) conference stand enables midwives and students to meet with LSA Midwifery Officers and ask questions regarding supervision. The stand provides an ideal opportunity for the LSAMOs to distribute a number of printed documents and brochures regarding statutory supervision for midwives to receive and share with other colleagues within their practice areas.

LSA Forum UK Strategic Direction 2008 -2011

Government policies on health care and health care reform, together with meeting the standards set by the NMC are key drivers outlined in this document. The key priorities and strategic goals are all described along with the commitments of the forum to be a pivotal and unique partner with regard to safeguarding and protecting the public and how supervision of midwives enables this to be achieved.

LSA Database

This has been implemented by a number of LSAs over the year and to date there is only one LSA not accessing the database. The database enables consistency of supervision records across the UK and allows seamless transfer from one supervisor to another, as midwives move their area of practice around the UK. It also enables timely and effective notification of Intention to Practise (ITP) forms to the NMC.

LSA Website

This last year has seen the development of the LSA Midwifery Officers' Forum (UK) website which contains all the LSA national guidelines, other core documents and also provides access to the LSA database. You will find further information at www.midwife.org.uk or www.jmdevents.co.uk

**Barbara Kuypers –
Chair: LSA Midwifery Officers Forum (UK)**

North East



Kath Mannion

The geographical area stretches from the Scottish borders and Berwick upon Tweed to Northallerton in North Yorkshire. The population of approximately 2.6million people live in urban conurbations and rural communities. There are 8 Acute NHS Trusts with 16 maternity units providing maternity services. The units vary in size from large regional referral units in cities to smaller midwifery led units in remote areas. 30,970 babies were born in the North East in 2007.

In January 2008, the Healthcare Commission said that hospitals in the North East provide the best maternity care in England. The 'Review of Maternity Services 2007' also rated seven out of the eight hospital trusts in the North East as 'best performing' with one trust being classed as 'better performing'.

Two universities provide pre/post midwifery education -Northumbria University in Newcastle upon Tyne and University of Teesside at Middlesbrough.

1425 midwives notified their intention to practice between April 2007 and March 2008 and there are 114 supervisors of midwives.

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Yorkshire and the Humber



Carol Paeglis

The Yorkshire and the Humber LSA covers an area of approximately 14,870 square kilometres, covering both urban and rural communities. It is the fourth largest LSA in England. Increases in midwifery, supervisory and LSA activity have again been key features of this practice year.

There are 24 sites providing maternity services which range from small stand alone midwife led units to large tertiary referral centres, in 14 Acute NHS Trusts. There was an increase in births during 2007/08, to almost 64,000. Master classes for Labour Ward Co-ordinators and "Fresh eyes" and "Buddy" CTG systems have been LSA-led initiatives.

Yorkshire and the Humber LSA notified 2,581 2008-09 Intention to practise forms (ITP) to the NMC by March 2008, with 194 practising Supervisors of Midwives. Pre and post midwifery education is provided by 7 Universities, 2 of whom provided Supervisors of Midwives preparation programmes, compliant with the NMC (2006) "*Standards for the preparation and practice of supervisors of midwives*". The programmes are delivered at the Universities of Leeds and Sheffield at level 3 and M level.

Service users have been involved in the annual LSA audit process since 2001. They are involved in the production of the audit tool, are part of the audit team and assist in producing the LSA audit visit reports. They are also involved in the selection of prospective supervisors of midwives and in the delivery of the Supervisors of midwives preparation programmes.

Carol Paeglis is the LSA Midwifery Officer, Elaine French is the LSA Support Officer and Julie Green is seconded to a LSA Midwife role. 4 Link Supervisors, from a variety of substantive posts also provide support and there is a Contact Supervisor in every maternity service.

Please visit the LSA web-pages for more information:

http://www.yorksandhumber.nhs.uk/what_we_do/local_supervising_authority_midwifery/

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East Midlands



Shirley Smith

East Midlands Local Supervising Authority covers the counties of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire (excluding Humberside) Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland and is coterminous with the Strategic Health Authority. There are 11 NHS Trusts providing maternity services over 17 sites, covering densely populated urban conurbations to remote rural areas. These units vary in size from small midwifery led stand alone units to large multi site tertiary referral maternity units. In 2007/8 there were approx 55,000 births registered in the East Midlands. As of March 2007, 2156 midwives had notified their intention to practice to the East Midlands LSA. To support these midwives there are 152 supervisors of midwives appointed in the East Midlands.

Three universities provide pre/post midwifery education. They are: the University of Nottingham; DeMontfort University and University of Northampton. The Preparation of supervisors courses are provided via the Universities of Northampton, Sheffield and Leeds

The LSA Midwifery Officer is Shirley Smith and she is supported by two part time LSA midwives Carol Lee and Anne Meadows.

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East of England



Joy Kirby

The East of England LSA covers Essex, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk & Cambridgeshire. There are 18 maternity units providing maternity services including, 4 stand alone midwifery led units and 3 integrated Birth Centres. There were 67,684 births in the year 2007/08 in the East of England and the trend has been upwards over the past 4 years.

We have areas of high deprivation and social exclusion with some of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in the country.

There are 168 supervisors and over the last few years, good networks have been developed which offer supervisors of midwives opportunities for education, support and to share good practice.

Each Unit has a Strategy for Supervision of Midwives which provides a focus for supervision and ensures that local supervisors are able to demonstrate their compliance with the LSA Standards for supervision.

All supervisors of midwives within the East of England LSA are actively involved in ensuring that maternity services remain women focused and enable midwives to achieve their full potential.

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Joy Kirby

London



Angela Helleur

NHS London is responsible for developing a sustainable quality strategy for users of maternity services in 33 administrative areas across 610 square miles. There is a resident population of more than seven million and 20% of all births in England take place in London.

In London there are 27 NHS Trusts, two private hospitals and HMP Holloway, plus a number of self employed midwives providing midwifery care outside of the NHS. 128,320 women gave birth in the last year and of these, 96% take place in obstetric units in hospital, 2% of births take place at home and a further 2% of births in stand alone midwife led units.

Clinical activity for all maternity services has once again increased during the last year. The birth rate over the past five years in London has increased by 16% compared to the overall rate for England of 12.8%. It is anticipated that the birth rate in London is set to increase by 19,000 births over the next decade. Currently 53% of babies are born to mothers who themselves were born outside of Britain, having significant implications for the maternity services as these groups of women are reported as having higher rates of complications in pregnancy.

Approximately 5000 midwives practise in London and there are 275 Supervisors of Midwives.

Angela Helleur is the LSAMO she is supported by Assistant LSAMO Jessica Read, LSA Support Midwife Scott Johnston and Arlette Fernandes provides administrative assistance.

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South East Coast



Helen O'Dell

South East Coast covers Kent, Medway, Surrey & Sussex. The population of the area is nearly 4.2 million. There are 12 Acute Trusts offering maternity services on 19 sites, including 3 stand alone birth centres, 2 alongside midwifery units and 3 Level 3 neonatal units.

2166 midwives submitted an intention to practise between April 2007 and March 2008. There are 170 Supervisors of Midwives and 17 more undertaking the preparation course. In 2007/2008 there were 52,179 births 2135 / 4% at home and 1501 / 2.8% in birth centres further increases in all areas from the previous year which includes a total of 6.9% of births out of hospital.

Midwifery training is offered at 4 local universities which all work closely with maternity services. Currently Brighton University facilitates the Preparation of Supervisors course at degree and masters.

The British Forces (Germany, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Naples and Brunei) and Gibraltar Health Authority are also supported by this LSA. There is an International on-call system in place to ensure all midwives working abroad have 24 hour access to Supervisors of Midwives.

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South Central



Suzie Cro

South Central

The counties that South Central Local Supervising Authority covers are Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire and the Isle of Wight.

Statutory supervision in South Central continues to be valued, appreciated and recognised as the fundamental safeguard to support midwives and thus safeguard the health and well being of mothers and babies. There are currently 144 supervisors of midwives appointed to the role in this area. Another 24 midwives are undertaking the Supervisor of Midwives Preparation Programme at Thames Valley and Bournemouth University at either degree or masters level. If you think that you would like to undertake this role then please contact Suzie for more information?

The South Central LSA report for the 2007/08 year is available to download online at: -

http://www.southcentral.nhs.uk/document_store/12290099033_ha08-109b_south_central_local_supervising_authority_annual_report_2007-08.pdf

OR <http://www.nmc-uk.org/aFrameDisplay.aspx?DocumentID=5055>

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South West Region



Val Beale

The area covered by South West Local Supervising Authority (NHS South West) is Avon, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall, Isles of Scilly and the Channel Islands. The area covers 9500 sq Miles, with a population of 5 million.

Midwives provide care for 57,000 births, in a variety of settings, which include 23 Acute services, 13 Stand-alone midwifery led units and an average home birth rate of 7% (with some areas providing 22% of their population with this choice of birth)

There are 220 Supervisors of Midwives supporting 2700 midwives.

There are 3 education providers:

HIS Bournemouth

HIS Plymouth

University of West of England

More details about the Local Supervising Authority can be found on the NHS South West website : www.southwest.nhs.uk

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West Midlands



Barbara Kuypers

The West Midlands LSA comprises – Shropshire, Staffordshire, Birmingham, the Black Country, Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

With a population of around 5.5 million the area stretches from the borders of Cheshire in the north to the borders with Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire in the south and the Welsh borders in the west to the Trent region in the east.

There are 15 NHS Acute Trusts containing 18 Consultant Maternity Units, ranging in capacity from 1900 births to 7500 births, and five outlying Midwife Led Units. In the period April 2007 – March 2008 there were 71,702 births in the West Midlands and 2771 midwives submitted their intention to practise forms.

There are currently 229 supervisors of Midwives with a further 10 student supervisors undergoing training. Supervision courses are provided in rotation between two universities: Birmingham City University and the University of Manchester.

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Marian Drazek

The North West Local Supervising Authority

NHS North West is the Local Supervising Authority for Cumbria, Lancashire, Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and the Isle of Man. The LSA covers an area of approx. 14,000 square kilometres, with a population of over 7 million, living in both urban and rural communities. The region has a significant ethnic minority population, plus a high number of dispersed asylum seekers, a significant number of Eastern European migrant workers and an increasing number of Gypsy and Traveller families.

There are 34 sites providing maternity services - in 23 Acute NHS Trusts and one PCT – these include small stand alone midwife led units and large tertiary referral centres. Our biggest Trust had almost 11,000 births last year and the smallest birth centre had 78. There was a total of 92,412 babies born across the North West in 2008 - 2009, which continues the trend of a rising birth rate in the North West; an increase of 15% over the last six years. There are currently approximately 4,138 midwives and 345 Supervisors of Midwives practising within the LSA, giving a Supervisor to midwife ratio of 1 to 12. Nineteen Supervisors of Midwives resigned in the past year and twenty nine were appointed.

North West LSA objectives:

- To discharge the statutory function as specified in the NMC Midwives rules and standards
- To ensure safe, effective and appropriate midwifery care is provided through a robust framework of statutory supervision
- To promote excellence in midwifery practice and statutory supervision through audit and dissemination of good practice
- To provide leadership and guidance to all Supervisors of Midwives within the North West
- To provide advice and support to women who are experiencing difficulty in achieving care choices.

Supervisors in all North West units are electronically linked to the LSA Office for the purpose of statutory supervision, utilising the national database, and the LSA has a website at www.northwest.nhs.uk/whatwedoLSA/

Seven Universities across the LSA provide pre and post registration midwifery education and the Preparation of Supervisors of Midwives course is provided at two HEIs; Birmingham City University and University of Manchester - the programme runs twice every year.

Over the last five years, recruitment of service users to assist the LSA has been very successful and following appropriate training, they now accompany the LSA team on all audit visits – to talk to mothers and their families who use local maternity services. In the past year we have broadened our group of user auditors to include some women from minority groups. Service users are also increasingly involved in other supervision activities - including interviews and speaking on courses, study days and at LSA meetings.

In September 2008, the NMC carried out a formal review of the North West LSA and recognised it as an example of good practice. The report stated that statutory supervision is well embedded in practice and that the SHA continues to value, recognise and appreciate the role of statutory supervision in protecting the safety of mothers and babies in the North West.

Marian Drazek is the North West LSA Midwifery Officer and Judith Kurutac - as the LSA Midwife – supports the statutory function by providing midwifery clinical expertise. Four Link Supervisors, who have a variety of substantive posts in midwifery practice and education, also provide support and there is a Contact Supervisor in every maternity service. Geraldine Gannon is the LSA Services Manager and Barbara Hallas-Roberts is the LSA Secretary.

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WALES



Gillian Harris

The function for Statutory Supervision of Midwives in Wales sits within Health Inspectorate Wales, which is an arm of the Welsh Assembly Government. There are two local supervising Authority Midwifery officers (LSAMOs) who take responsibility for designated geographical areas. The single LSA in Wales became operational in 2005 and since its inception the following has been achieved:

- Production of LSA guidelines that meet the standards as laid down by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).
- Demonstrate visibility across the principality for supervisors of midwives, midwives and service users.
- Established links to the Welsh Assembly Government Chief Nurse, via the Professional advisor, the Royal College of Midwives and NHS Trust managers.



Jean Keats

Since its inception the LSA in Wales has been involved with two audits, one independent and one by the NMC, both demonstrated that the LSA was performing its function satisfactorily.

The LSAMOs in Wales have undertaken a number of audits of statutory supervision across Wales. They have also supported reviews into midwifery practice, service provision and are actively involved with planning, conflict resolution, and corrective action, all this supports Public protection by identifying and consequently reducing risk.

The LSAMOs in Wales are striving to increase transparency and visibility and would wish to encourage midwives service users and other interested parties to contact them. Contact details are as follows:

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SCOTLAND

West of Scotland



Joy Payne

There are four Local Supervising Authorities in the West of Scotland. These are Ayrshire and Arran, Dumfries and Galloway, Greater Glasgow and Clyde and Lanarkshire. The West of Scotland comprises densely populated urban areas with seven consultant led units, three community maternity units in rural areas and one island offering midwifery services.

There were approximately 26,340 births in 2007-2008. There are 113 appointed supervisors of midwives. 1865 midwives submitted their ITP in March 2008.

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Health Board Websites:

www.nhsggc.org.uk, www.nhsayrshireandarran.com,
www.nhslanarkshire.org.uk, www.nhsdg.scot.nhs.uk

South East Scotland



Yvonne Bronsky

The South East of Scotland Local Supervising Authority covers four Health Boards: Borders, Fife, Forth Valley and Lothian. The Boards provide maternity services from five maternity units operating within an Acute and Community Based environment.

The population area is 1.53 million and in 2007/08 there were 17,805 births.

1056 midwives have submitted an ITP for the practice year 2008/09. There are currently 80 Supervisor of Midwives appointed.

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Health Board Websites:

www.nhsborders.org.uk,
www.nhsllothian.scot.nhs.uk,
www.nhsforthvalley.com,
www.nhsfife.scot.nhs.uk

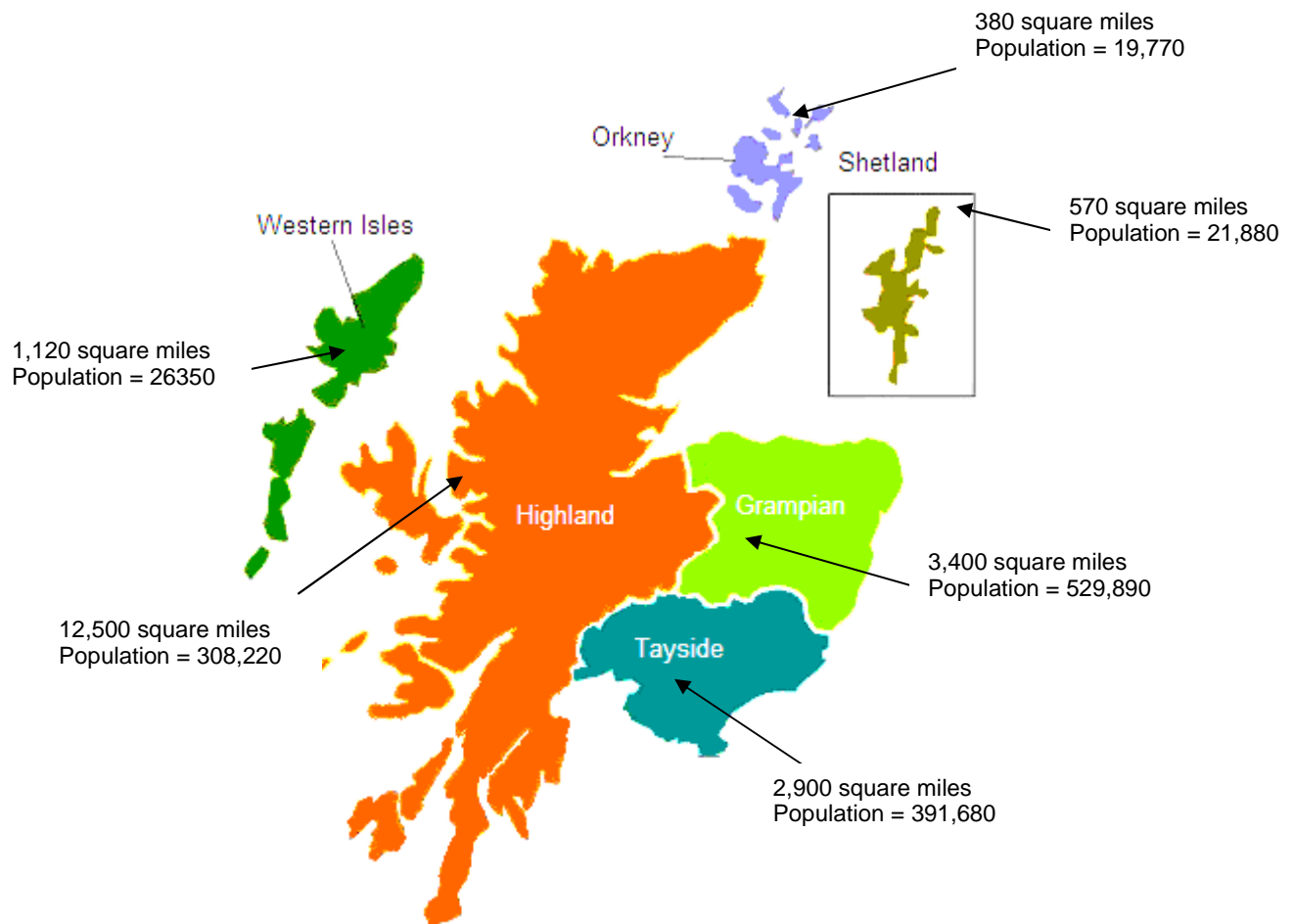
North of Scotland



The North of Scotland LSA Consortium, which is a collaboration between NHS Grampian, NHS Highland, NHS Orkney, NHS Shetland, NHS Tayside and NHS Western Isles, covers an area of approximately 20,870 square miles, and is approximately 66% of the Scottish land mass and 22% of the UK land mass. This is a diverse area which includes urban and rural areas as well as island communities.

Maternity services in the Consortium consist of a tertiary centre in Aberdeen, which services Grampian, Orkney and Shetland; five consultant led Maternity Units in Dundee, Inverness, Wick, Elgin and Stornoway; two GP supported Maternity Units in Orkney and Shetland; twelve stand alone Community Maternity Units - one in Grampian, three in Tayside and eight in Highland; one alongside Midwife-led Unit in Grampian and three Birth Units¹ in Grampian. There were 13,554 births in 2007.

For the period 2008 – 2009 1029 midwives notified their intention to practice and there were 92 supervisors of midwives.



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¹ A Birth Unit is a service where women are discharged home approximately 6 hours after the birth of the baby - there is no capacity for women to stay longer as the unit is not staffed on a 24 hour basis

Northern Ireland

The population of Northern Ireland is just over 1.75 million and the country is mainly rural with Belfast being the urban centre. There were 25600 births in 2008 showing a 17 year high. In NI there is a small ethnic minority population with increasing diversity as migrant workers settle in the province.



Verena Wallace

From 1 April 2009, the Public Health Agency is the LSA for Northern Ireland covering the counties of Fermanagh, Armagh, Tyrone, Londonderry, Antrim (including Rathlin Island) and Down.

There are five health and social care Trusts with two maternity units per Trust, all providing midwifery led care. Three of the ten maternity units are in Belfast. Maternity services in 'Derry (Altnagelvin Hospital, Western Trust) and the Ulster (Dundonald in East Belfast, South Eastern Trust) have recently moved into modern, new buildings with midwifery led units. Another midwife led unit is anticipated in Downpatrick in 2009 and a new hospital including maternity services in Enniskillen in 2012.

1416 midwives submitted an ITP for the practice year 2009/10 and there are currently 98 Supervisors of Midwives. From April 2009 NI supervisors have been using the national LSA database. Midwives receive their education through Queens University Belfast (QUB) who also run the Preparation of Supervisor of Midwives course.

Post registration development for midwives is available through QUB, the University of Ulster (UU), the Beeches Management Centre and the Northern Ireland Practice and Education Council (NIPEC).

The LSAMO is Verena Wallace

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The Boards' websites:

<http://www.ehssb.n-i.nhs.uk>

<http://www.nhssb.n-i.nhs.uk>

<http://www.shssb.org>

<http://www.whssb.n-i.nhs.uk>



