Positive Evaluation for Maternity Services Development Training

Findings of study undertaken by the
University of the West of Scotland

The findings of the latest study of the Scottish Multiprofessional Maternity Development Programme (SMMDP) indicate a high level of satisfaction with this method of training healthcare professionals involved with intrapartum care within the maternity services. NHS Education for Scotland (NES) commissioned the study which was undertaken by the University of The West of Scotland between October 2010 and March 2011.

The study set out to determine the impact of the SMMDP in the context of NHSScotland’s Quality Strategy. The findings will inform future development, ensuring that the programme is contemporary and continues to provide improved maternity care for women and their babies across Scotland.

This is the second evaluation to be carried out on the SMMDP since it was first created in 2003. The last evaluation was conducted in 2007.

Some of the main findings of the 2011 study, included the following:

- the SMMDP is relevant, up-to-date, evidence-based and a quality assured method of training multiprofessionals within the maternity services
- the multiprofessional aspect to the programme was positively evaluated and endorsed the partnership approach adopted by the SMMDP
- participants reported numerous examples of evidence-based changes which have been implemented into their practice areas following SMMDP training
participants reported that the SMMDP was an enjoyable, beneficial and effective mode of training, which increased their knowledge, confidence and competence and prepared them to carry out their role and advanced roles e.g. Examination of the Newborn

the SMMDP was perceived to be cost effective, value for money and an efficient use of time

the continuing positive evaluations across all the courses emphasise the consistency of the programme’s instructors who comes from a variety of professional backgrounds and regions. This finding confirms a rigorous and robust quality assurance mechanism with the programme.

two new courses, not previously evaluated, the Scottish Emergency Maternity Care course (for non-maternity professionals) and the Scottish Maternity REACTS (Recognition, Evaluation, Assessment, Critical Treatment and Stabilisation) course, were both rated positively by participants.

participants acknowledged that the SMMDP should remain a national evidence-based training programme used by all professionals and non-professionals involved in providing maternity care across Scotland. Financial restraints within NHS Boards were identified by some respondents as a challenge in attending training.

The SMMDP is closely aligned to the Quality Strategy. All courses are evidence-based and concentrate on improving quality and safety when caring for pregnant women and babies. The Examination of the Newborn course supports staff to develop additional skills which helps shape workforce redesign.

Most of the courses are flexible to the needs of individual practitioners, NHS Boards and the Scottish Ambulance Service. They are run locally and include members of the multiprofessional team learning and supporting each other in their communities.

The SMMDP was established in response to the recommendations made by the report of the Expert Group on Acute Maternity Services (Scottish Executive 2002) whereby maternity staff across Scotland receive sufficient training, support and education to ensure that they had the
necessary skills and competencies to cope with obstetric and neonatal emergencies. It was agreed that all healthcare professionals (midwives, obstetricians, anaesthetists, paediatricians, general practitioners, paramedics, neonatal nurses, nurses and allied health professionals) involved with intrapartum care, irrespective of location, should have and maintain these core skills.

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ENDS
Ref No: 1094

NOTE TO EDITORS

1. NES is NHSScotland’s Education and Training Body. We provide educational solutions that support excellence in healthcare for the people of Scotland. We work in close partnership with a range of partners to deliver our vision of Quality Education for a Healthier Scotland.

2. To access the Executive Summary “An Evaluation of the Scottish Multiprofessional Maternity Development Programme” please go to http://www.scottishmaternity.org/Downloads/SMMDP%20Executive%20Summary_June%202011.pdf