New Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions Appointed

Dr Colette Ferguson has been appointed to the role of Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions for NHS Education for Scotland (NES), following a national recruitment exercise. She takes over from Helen Mackinnon who retired from the post in September this year.

Dr Ferguson takes up her new post on 1 December 2011.

Announcing the appointment, NES Chief Executive, Malcolm Wright said: “Colette is currently Associate Director of Nursing and Midwifery and she brings a wealth of expertise and experience to this pivotal role for NES. I look forward to working with her as we drive forward our ambitious plans to develop the NHS workforce in Scotland.”

Dr Ferguson joined NES in 2003 as a Programme Director within the Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions Directorate. Her career path makes her ideally suited to her new strategic role with NES. Building on practice in community and acute care settings, she has also held a range of leadership roles in undergraduate and postgraduate university education.

In addition, she has been involved in number of UK and overseas committees including the NMC Review of pre-registration Nursing Education Advisory Group; Expert Advisory Group for Revalidation; UK Modernising Nursing Careers; and she acted as advisor to the Director of Nursing, University of Navarra, Pamplona, Spain on developing the workforce profile and establishing a preceptorship system.

Dr Ferguson is particularly well known for her work in implementing the role of Practice Education Facilitator in Scotland and developing a national network of support for nurses and midwives. This model has now been adopted across other professional groups, including AHPs.
She has published numerous papers on nursing and midwifery education and development and has presented frequently at international, UK national and Scottish conferences.

Dr Ferguson commented: "I am delighted to accept this post and look forward to working with colleagues in leading the development of the NMAHP workforce. I am particularly keen to strengthen education and learning where nurses, midwives and AHPs practise, with a clear focus on improving the health and care of the people of Scotland."

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Further information from: Christine Patch, Head of Corporate Communications, NES: christine.patch@nes.scot.nhs.uk; 0131 313 8059; 07786 398 082. A photograph of Dr Ferguson is available on request or by downloading from our Flickr site: http://ow.ly/7DXPT

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. NES is NHSScotland’s national education and training Board. We are responsible for supporting NHS services to the people of Scotland through the development and delivery of education and training for all those who work in NHSScotland: www.nes.scot.nhs.uk
2. Further information on the work of our Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions Directorate is available here: http://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/education-and-training/by-discipline/nursing-and-midwifery.aspx