

Preparing midwives for practice in the UK

Mandy Forrester
Midwifery Adviser
June 2010

Care environment in the UK

- National health service
- Health care delivered by policies set by the departments of health in each country
- Midwives are prepared to work in all settings
- Midwives also work independently

Birth locations

- Care given in many settings: hospitals, clinics, birth centres, home
- 93% birth in obstetric units
- 3% birth in co-located birth centres
- 2% birth in stand alone birth centres
- 2% birth at home

UK birth statistics 2008 - 2009

- 63.2% normal birth rate
- 24.6% caesarian section rate
- 12.2% instrumental delivery rate
- 20.2% of labour induced

UK birth statistics 2008 - 2009

- 36.5% epidural rate
- 8.3% of women having normal births had episiotomy
- 74% of women having normal birth spent a day or less in hospital
- 35% babies exclusively breastfed at one week (BFI, 2005)

Midwifery practice

- Midwives can, on their own responsibility, care for women from booking to discharge in the postnatal period only referring to a doctor if a problem is detected.
- All women receive care from midwives regardless of low or high risk.
- Midwifery led care is prevalent and many hospitals have birth centres.
- Midwives also work independently.

Trends

- Choice important part of UK policy
- Normalising birth
- Screening
- Waterbirth is popular
- Home birth
- Public health

How we prepare midwives

- We establish and monitor the standards for midwifery education
- *Standards for pre registration midwifery education*
- Guided by international definition of a midwife and requirements of EU Directive
- Includes statement of good character

Guiding principles

- Provision of woman centred care
- Ethical and legal obligations
- Respect for individuals and communities
- Quality and excellence
- Changing nature and context of practice
- Lifelong learning
- Evidence based practice and learning

Competencies

- Effective midwifery practice
- Professional and ethical practice
- Developing the individual and others
- Achieving quality care through evaluation and research

Essential skills clusters

- Communication
- Initial consultation between the woman and the midwife
- Normal labour and birth
- Initiation and continuance of breast feeding
- Medicines management

Supervisors of midwives

- Every practising midwife has a named supervisor of midwives
- Supervisor is required to sign Intention to practice
- Advise and support midwives
- Investigate practice and put developmental programmes in place where necessary.

Future developments

- Midwifery 2020
- Revalidation
- Advanced practice
- Review of EU Directive

Thank you

Mandy.forrester@nmc-org.uk

www.nmc-org.uk