



Faculty of Public Health

of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom

Working to improve the public's health

UK Faculty of Public Health (FPH) response to the Prime Minister's Commission on the Future of Nursing and Midwifery

The UK Faculty of Public Health (FPH) is the leading professional body for public health specialists in the UK. It aims to advance the health of the population through three key areas of work: health promotion, health protection and healthcare improvement. In addition to maintaining professional and educational standards for specialists in public health, FPH advocates on key public health issues and provides practical information and guidance for public health professionals.

The FPH welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Prime Minister's Commission on the Future of Nursing and Midwifery – an issue which is at the heart of public health and underpins its central principle of improving population health.

General Comments

FPH welcomes the establishment of the Commission and its mission to build on the findings of Lord Darzi's report High Quality Care for All. Nurses and Midwives make a valuable and well-regarded contribution to the Public workforce and the principles of the public health agenda.

FPH has been working with the Department of Health and key stakeholders to develop the career pathway for public health practitioners. This programme of work includes development of a regulatory, assessment and continued professional development framework for practitioners.

Consultation questions

1. *What are the knowledge, skills and attributes that nurses/ midwives require to take a central role in the design and delivery of 21st century services?*

During the development of the above work, FPH have been working with a number of standard-setting bodies including the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) to ensure that public health nurses are appropriately represented and taken into account.

In developing an assessment framework FPH have been conscious to ensure that the knowledge and competences required are linked to those in the *Public Health Skills and Career Framework* (PHSCF). As there has been extensive national work to develop this document and has agreement from the four devolved nations, we would hope that the knowledge and skills would be closely aligned to those in the PHSCF.

FPH would also expect that nurses would be equipped to contribute to the key public health themes including:

- Prevention and the wider determinants of health
- Health Improvement and Health Protection

- Population/ Community health
- Health Inequalities
- Behaviour change

We would view these as key areas that would be required to equip nurses and midwives meet the future challenges affecting public health. To also ensure the knowledge and skills are applicable in the workplace FPH would also support the mapping or cross referencing with PHSCF and other appropriate frameworks such as *Knowledge and Skills Framework* (KSF).

2. *What would you like to see nurses and midwives doing more of and/ or doing differently in the future as a result of changing needs and changes to healthcare delivery – whether in people’s own homes, in the community or in hospital?*

Additionally we would like to see nurses and midwives striving to tackle more inequalities, care based on health not illness model.

3. *What might be preventing nurses and midwives from doing this now?*

The particular and sole focus on ill health and treatment may be a contributor to preventing nurses and midwives from broadening their focus currently.

4. *How can these barriers be overcome?*

We feel that the barriers that restrict nurses and midwives may be overcome through education, leadership and integration to public health areas.

5. *The potential for, and benefits of nurses and midwives leading and managing their own services and the framework and support that would be needed for this in the context of a multi-disciplinary team.*

FPH also feel that there needs to be a clear recognition of nurses who currently work within a health protection setting. These are nurses who require opportunities to up skill into potentially more senior public health positions.