Nursing and Midwifery Council

A report about what we did in 2018 to 2019

EasyRead version of:
Annual review 2018 – 2019
The Nursing and Midwifery Council wrote this report.

We help make sure people using services and patients get good, safe care.

We are writing our plan for 2020 to 2025.

The new plan will help us keep making things better.
We are working on the plan with:

- people who use health and care services
- nurses, **midwives** and **nursing associates**
- other health and care organisations.

This report says what we did last year and how we will make care better and safer.

Some words are in **bold**. There is a list of what they mean at the end of this report.
What we do

The Nursing and Midwifery Council regulates nurses and midwives in the UK and nursing associates in England.

We do this by:

● saying what they must learn

● putting them on our register when they finish training for their job

● make sure people on the register keep to our Code. The Code says how they must behave and give safe care
• we support nurses, **midwives** and nursing associates to keep learning while they work

• we think professionals should learn from their mistakes but we look into things if people get poor or unsafe care

• we act if someone on our register does not keep to the **Code**. This can include taking their name off our **register** which means they cannot work in the UK.
What we did last year

In March 2019 there were nearly 700 thousand nurses, **midwives** and **nursing associates**.

There were over 100 places we said were good enough for people to train as nurses, **midwives** or **nursing associates**.

**Fitness to practise**

This means someone gives good, safe care and can work as a nurse, **midwife** or **nursing associate**.

People tell us if they are worried about something a nurse, **midwife** or **nursing associate** does. This happened over 5 thousand times last year. This was less than the year before.
We looked into nearly 2 thousand cases.

162 people were taken off our register completely.

Checking what we do

The Professional Standards Authority checks organisations that regulate health in the UK and social care in England.

It is independent and not part of these organisations.

In April 2019 it wrote a report to tell the government what we did last year. We did well in most things they check. But we could do better in dealing with some things in fitness to practise.
Some things we are proud of from last year

1. Nursing associates

This is a new role. Nursing associates are trained to work with nurses to support and care for people using services and patients.

Last year was the first time we had them on our register.

2. Our register

We made it easier for people from outside Europe who have the right skills to join our register.

People think revalidation is important.
Nurses, midwives and nursing associates must do this every 3 years to stay on our register and show they still give good, safe care.

3. Looking at fitness to practise

We looked at how we could support nurses, midwives and nursing associates to be honest when things go wrong and learn from their mistakes.

4. Our new public support service

This new service supports service users, patients and families who want to complain about nurses, midwives or nursing associates.
We have:

- worked with patients, families, employers and other organisations to plan this service
- trained our teams to recognise when someone needs extra support
- put better information on our website
- offered to meet people who ask us to look into things
• set up an independent support line for people who are worried or upset.

The first person to use the service felt it was helpful.

5. Making our standards better

Our standards say what nurses, midwives and nursing associates must learn to give good, safe care.

In 2018, we brought in new standards for nurses. We also asked people what should be in new standards for midwives.
We changed the way we check different types of training and now think more about what people get out of it.

Service users, patients, families and carers are now involved in checking colleges and universities to see how they work with them.

6. People and IT

We can only do a good job if we support the people who work for us.

We are training our managers and leaders to be better.
We are also looking at rules and plans about working for us and how much we pay different people.

Our computers and **IT systems** were old and we are working on these to make them better for:

- people who work for us
- people on our **register**
• the public

• other organisations.
Our money

Last year it cost just over £81 million for us to do our work.

Nearly half of that money was spent on looking into worries about some nurses, midwives and nursing associates.

It cost us over £6 million to look after the register and keep it up to date.

We spent over £2 million on making our standards better.

And on helping people to learn about the standards.
What the words mean

**Code**
A set of rules that people in a job or organisation must keep to.

**Fitness to practise**
Doing your job properly, giving good, safe care.

**IT system**
Information technology (IT) means equipment like telephones, computers, storage and ways to use them to share information.

**Midwives**
People who are trained to give women support, care and advice during pregnancy, labour and after the baby is born.

**Nursing associates**
This is a new role in England. Nursing associates are trained to work with nurses to support and care for patients.

**Register**
A list of people who have the right training and meet the rules. For example, people who can give good, safe care.

**Regulate**
Make sure people keep to rules and do things safely.
Credits

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