Building on ambitions for community and public health nursing:

Post-registration standards consultation webinar and panel discussion for social care nursing

22 July 2021

Welcome and housekeeping

- Everyone, except the presenters, are automatically muted
- The “raise your hand” feature will not be used today
- Use the “?” feature or speech bubble to submit any questions or comments at any time
- The technology prevents these being visible during the webinar but they will all be uploaded to the NMC site afterwards, along with the session recording and slides
- We’ve added live-captioning to make our events more accessible
- Audio-only participants can email questions and comments to PRSCOI@nmc-uk.org
- We can’t address individual points but everything is being noted for consideration.

Introduction to our presenters and panel members

Panel Chair:

Andrea Sutcliffe CBE, CEO and Registrar NMC

Panel members:

- Anita Astle MBE, Managing Director, Wren Hall Nursing Home
- Mark Bird, Independent Health & Social Care Lead, Royal College of Nursing
- Jane Douglas, Chief Nurse, Care Inspectorate Scotland
- Deborah Sturdy, Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care, England
- Geraldine Walters CBE, Executive Director

NMC attenders:

- Anne Trotter, Assistant Director
- Anne Bender, Standards Development Specialist

The NMC: Professional Regulator for Nurses, Midwives and Nursing Associates (England only)

Purpose?

"To protect the public"

How?

Pre-registration:

- Set standards of what people need to know and be able to do to get onto the register
- Specify standards for education providers who deliver professional education
- Set standards of behaviour and conduct (The Code)

Once qualified:

- Make sure people stay up to date once on the register (Revalidation/The Code)
- Take action if people on the register are not are not safe and competent to practice (i.e. standards of knowledge and skills)
- Or are not meeting the standards of behaviour and conduct (i.e. The Code).

We also have some post registration clinical qualifications which are recorded on our register…

Prescribing: All settings

Others: All community based

Specialist Community Public Health Nursing Qualifications

- Health Visitors
- Occupational Health Nurses
- School Nurses

Community Specialist Practice Qualifications:

- Community Children's Nursing
- Community Mental Health Nursing
- Community Learning Disability Nursing
- District Nursing
- General Practice Nursing

Why no others, and none in acute settings?

- Historically, people needed to have an SPQ to work in the community, and at that time, these were the only community roles that existed – **This is no longer the case.**

In professional regulation – doesn't make sense

If you can work as a District Nurse, Community Mental Health Nurse, etc. without the NMC qualification – then regulation is serving no purpose.

But if community nursing does need regulation, why only these five roles, and not any others?

Two choices:

1. Don't regulate any community SPQs at all
2. Develop an approach that includes all community nurses

- Our post registration standards steering group agreed to develop an approach that:
  - Could be applicable and relevant to any nursing role in the community
  - Exceeds pre-registration knowledge and skill requirements, so is aimed at those working at more senior and autonomous levels of clinical practice
  - Demonstrated enhanced core knowledge and skills requirements for this level: advanced clinical assessment, ability to practice autonomously, risk management, complex decision making, political awareness, research awareness leadership and management)
  - Modernises and future proofs our approach to SPQs.

Characteristics of the new standards

- **Uses the structure of the new Future nurse standards** to demonstrate a higher level of knowledge and skill
- **Retains the current specialist practice annotations** Community children's nursing (CCN), Community learning disabilities nursing (CLDN), Community mental health nursing (CMHN), District nursing (DN), General practice nursing (GPN)
- **Plus a proposed new community SPQ in social care and health** for specialist community nurses in roles other than those above, that can also be applied to any new roles that emerge across health and social care in future.

What are we hearing from Social Care and Care Home Nursing?

'A specific SPQ in social care with specific standards for social care is needed'

Alternatively

'A specific SPQ would further reinforce the separation between "health" and "social care" nurses and it would be a stronger message if the standards were the same to demonstrate that social care nurses need the same level of knowledge and skill'

and

'It would be better if there was just one community SPQ that could be applied to all higher level community roles'

Other frequently raised issues:

- *Social care nursing is less recognised and valued than acute and community nursing in the NHS*
- *There are issues with support and funding for education*
- *The career pathway in social care nursing is as visible and not as attractive*
- *There is less recognition for the complex work that social care nurses do*
- *There are often less favourable terms and conditions of employment*

We don't have any direct power over these issues - But we will use our influence to champion social care nursing.

Busting myths

- The proposed SPQ does not mean that everyone working in social care / care home must have the qualification. Whether the SPQ would be appropriate or not, is a choice for employers and individual nurses
- The SPQ's don't confer any additional professional status, and aren't linked to a particular grade of pay
- The regulatory standards are not the same as a course or a curriculum
- Having the same regulatory standards doesn't mean everyone studies exactly the same thing, they do acknowledge that everyone who is practising at this level, whatever their role, needs equivalent knowledge and skills
- The regulatory standards state the high level skills and knowledge that we regulate
- Universities develop courses that meet our standards, but the detail of the curriculum is developed by universities in partnership with service providers
- Someone studying the SPQ who works in social care or a care home would therefore gain the knowledge and skills that we specify in the high level standards, but the course they undertake would be tailored to social care/care home nursing.

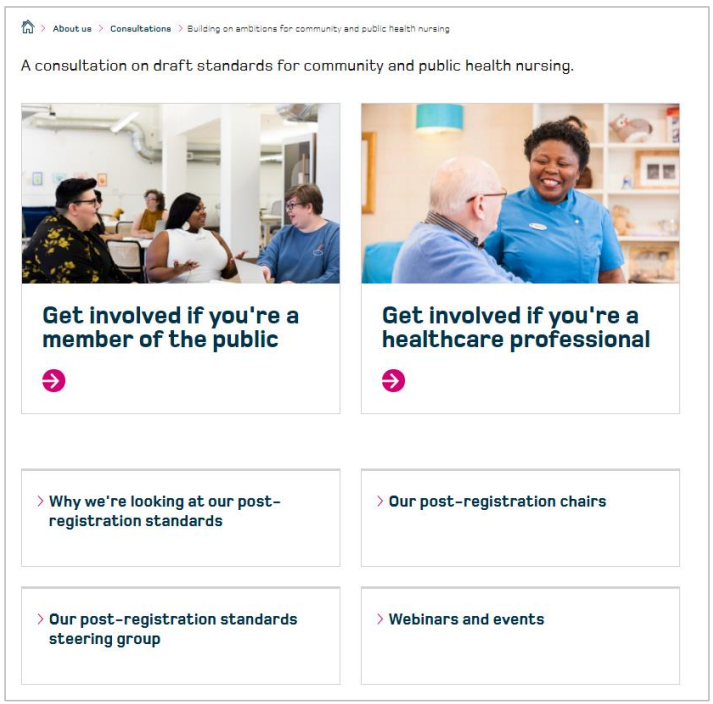
Nursing & Midwifery Council

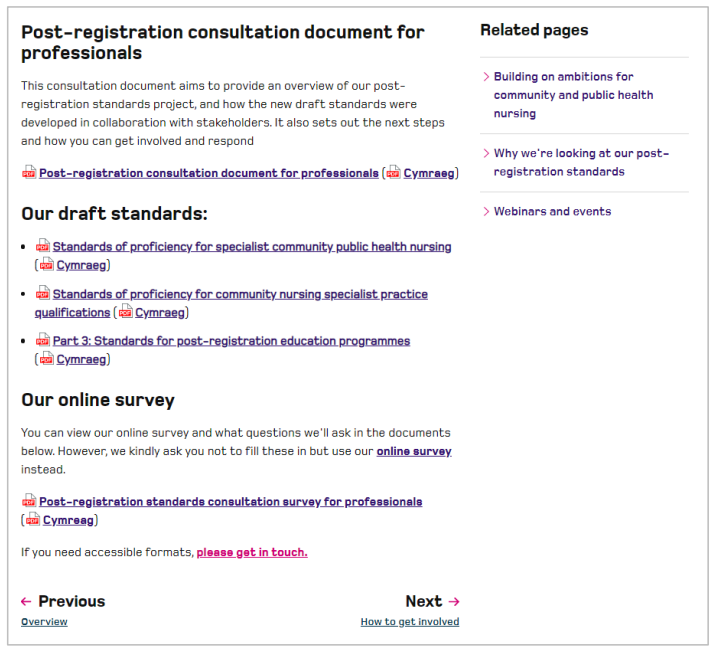
Panel discussion

Participate in the consultation – closing date 2 August at 18.00

https://www.nmc.org.uk/about-us/consultations/current-consultations/future-community-nurse/get-involved-if-youre-a-healthcare-professional/how-to-get-involved/

Consultation info on NMC website





Versions of consultation documents

Professional (English)

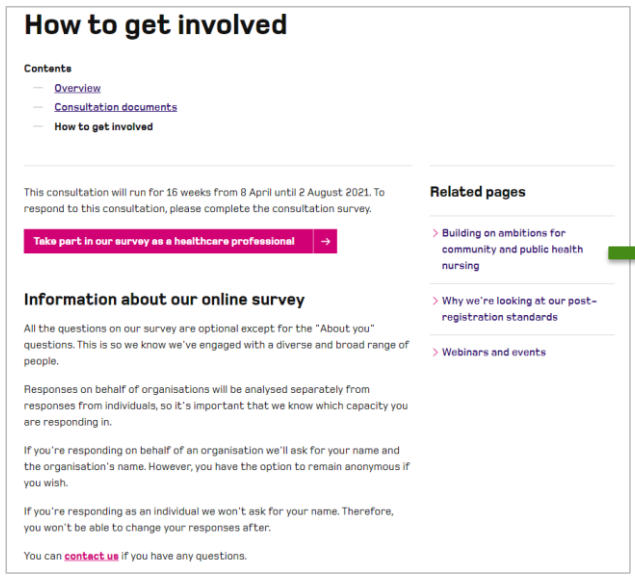
Professional (Welsh)

Public (English)

Public (Welsh)

Responding to the consultation

NMC website



How to get involved

Contents

- Overview
- Consultation documents
- How to get involved

This consultation will run for 16 weeks from 8 April until 2 August 2021. To respond to this consultation, please complete the consultation survey.

Take part in our survey as a healthcare professional →

Information about our online survey

All the questions on our survey are optional except for the "About you" questions. This is so we know we've engaged with a diverse and broad range of people.

Responses on behalf of organisations will be analysed separately from responses from individuals, so it's important that we know which capacity you are responding in.

If you're responding on behalf of an organisation we'll ask for your name and the organisation's name. However, you have the option to remain anonymous if you wish.

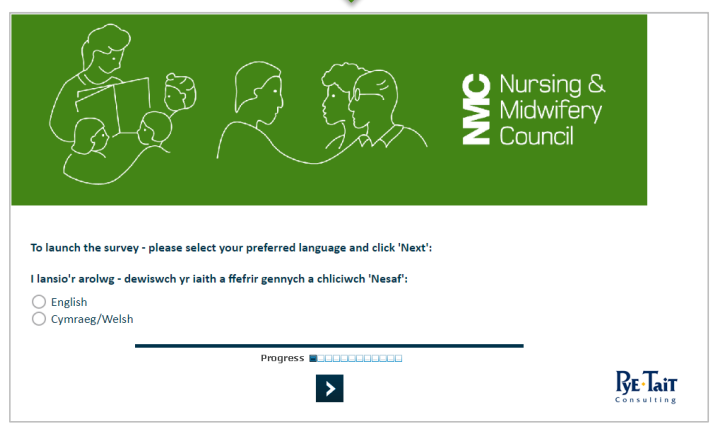
If you're responding as an individual we won't ask for your name. Therefore, you won't be able to change your responses after.

You can contact us if you have any questions.

Related pages

- Building on ambitions for community and public health nursing
- Why we're looking at our post-registration standards
- Webinars and events

Pye Tait survey



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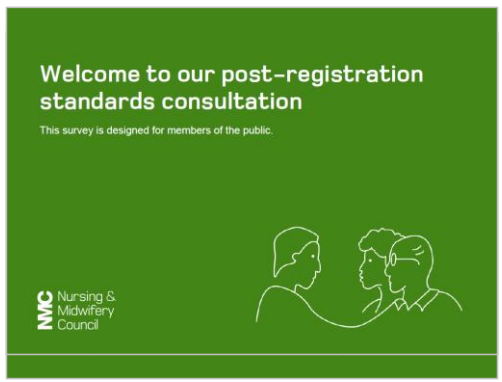
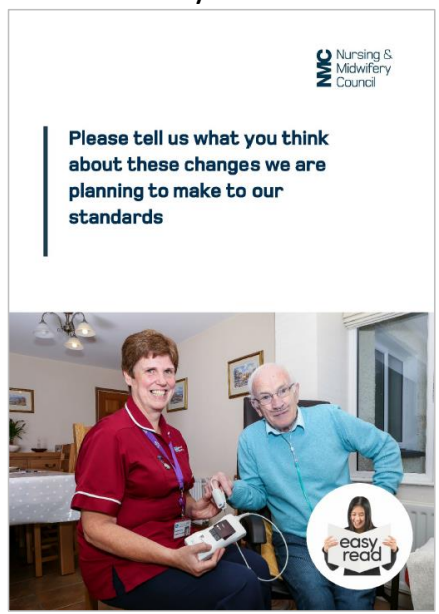
Versions of the consultation questionnaires

Professional (English)

Public (English)

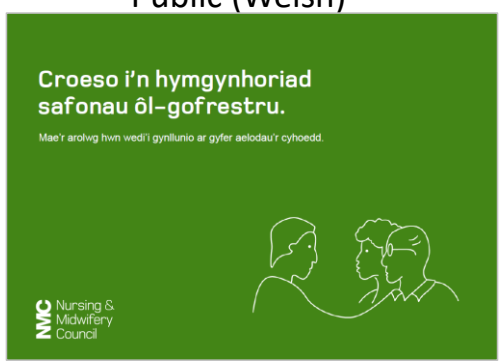


Easy read



Professional (Welsh)

Public (Welsh)



Timeline

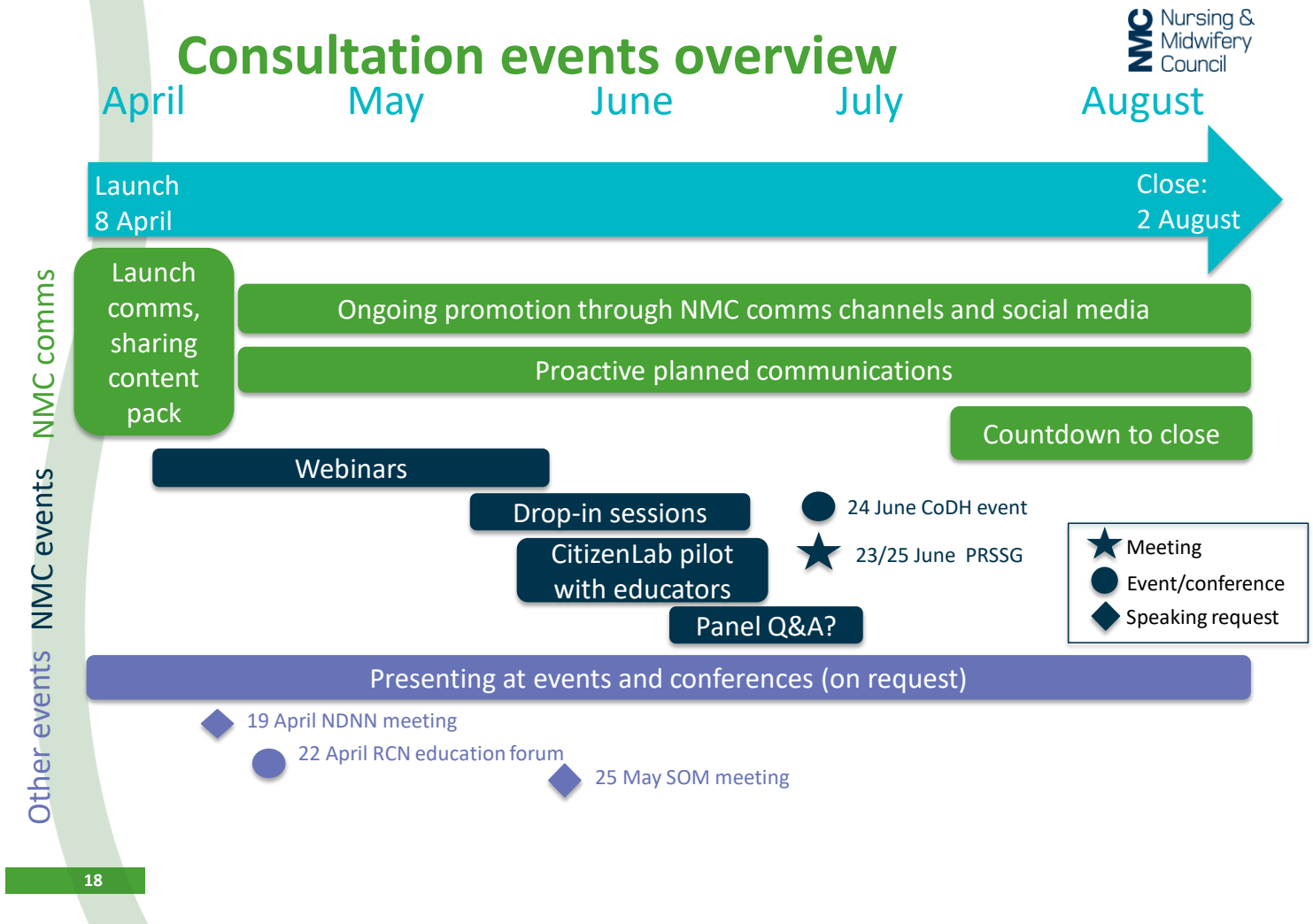
8 April	2 August	6 September	26 November	December	January	September
Consultation starts	Consultation ends	Assimilation starts	Assimilation ends	Council approval sought	Standards published	Withdrawal of current standards AEIs to use new standards

Find out more

- Website – **nmc.org.uk/future-community-nurse**

@NMCnews

#FutureCommunityNurse

- Send questions to – **prscoi@nmc-uk.org**

Consultation events overview