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**Board Nurse Director/
Local Supervising Authority
Midwifery Officer**

**Annual Local Supervising Authority Midwifery Officer (LSAMO) Report
2010/11**

1. Recommendations

Board Members are asked to note the Annual Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Local Supervising Authority (LSA) Report for 2010/11.

2. Introduction

It is the responsibility of each individual Health Board (LSA) to ensure that it complies with the LSA Standards and that the activities of the Supervisors of Midwives (SoM) are such that they promote safe and high quality of care for women and their babies, achieved through a robust system of monitoring standards of midwifery practice and by actively promoting a safe standard of midwifery practice.

The health board discharges its' responsibility in part through the joint appointment of a single Local Supervising Authority Midwifery Officer (LSAMO), This report will highlight the main points of activity as undertaken through Statutory Supervision of Midwives during the practice year 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011. In particular evidence will be available which demonstrates how Greater Glasgow and Clyde has achieved compliance with the 54 standards as set within the NMC Midwives Rules and standards (2004).

3. Background

3.1 Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

The NMC was established under the Nursing and Midwifery Order 2001, as the body responsible for regulating the practice of Nurses, Health Visitors and Midwives.

Articles 42 and 43 of the Order make provision for the practice of midwives to be supervised.

The purpose of statutory supervision of midwives is to protect the public and to support and promote good midwifery practice.

The local bodies responsible for the discharge of those functions are the Local Supervising Authorities (LSAs). In Scotland LSAs are Health Boards.

3.2 Standards for Local Supervising Authorities.

The functions of the LSAs are specified in Article 43 of the Nursing and Midwifery Order 2001.

Article 43 (2)

The Council may prescribe the qualifications of persons who may be appointed by the LSA to exercise supervision over midwives in its area, and no one shall be appointed who is not so qualified.

Article 43 (3)

The Council shall by rules from time to time establish standards for the exercise by LSAs of their functions and may give guidance to LSAs on these matters.

Within the Order the LSA has a statutory responsibility to:

- Exercise general supervision in accordance with the secondary legislation the Midwives rules and standards (NMC 2004)
- Report to the Nursing and Midwifery Council a midwife where fitness to practise is impaired
- Suspend from practice a midwife where the Midwives rules and standards have been contravened as determined by the Midwifery Officer

3.3 Statutory Supervision of Midwives.

The role and purpose of the LSA is protection of the public through the process of statutory supervision of midwives and midwifery practice. This role is undertaken by the LSA Midwifery Officer in a manner which fulfils the requirements of the NMC Midwives rules and standards (2004).

The Midwives rules and standards (2004) provide guidance to support the legislation and framework for the practice of midwifery and statutory supervision of midwives in the United Kingdom. Within the rules and standards there are 54 standards relating to the Local Supervising Authority which require to be fulfilled.

3.4 Role of the Local Supervising Authority Midwifery Officer

It is the responsibility of the LSAMO to ensure the rules and standards are met on behalf of the LSA (Health Board) through a process of evidence demonstrating compliance with the following:

- Ensure that each midwife meets statutory requirements and is eligible to practise
- Manage the Intention to Practise process
- Investigate cases of alleged impairment to fitness to practise
- Determine when to suspend a midwife from practice
- Manage the appointment of Supervisors of Midwives
- Monitor maternity services interface with Clinical Governance structures to identify trends and provide a framework for continuous improvement
- Monitor service developments and reconfiguration to ensure that safety and quality is assured
- Monitor safe staffing levels, workforce planning and professional development to ensure women are able to access services which are fit for purpose
- Lead on the development of standards and audit of supervision
- Ensure the provision of ongoing educational development for Supervisors of Midwives
- Publish LSA procedures
- Publish a written annual report for the NMC

4. Findings from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's Audit visit by the LSAMO March 2011

The following are some of the highlights from the LSAMO audit visit undertaken in March 2011 as a result of visiting all the Maternity Units in the Board.

- Evidence made available to demonstrate compliance with standards was well presented
- Presentations by Supervisors of Midwives provided an opportunity to showcase innovative practice and demonstrated how Supervisors of Midwives have influenced change and embraced their role in ensuring the safeguarding of the health and well being of mothers and babies within NHSGGC.
- Use of the Midwives Training Booklet is commendable and as such permission was given to review this through the Supervisors Quality Improvement Group with a view to adapting and implementing this across the South East and West of Scotland Regions
- Role of the Supervisors of Midwives highlighted in relation to major changes over the past year was commendable

- Little evidence of service user involvement in the statutory supervision framework

5. **Summary**

For the period 2010/2011 the 54 standards set by the Nursing and Midwifery Council for the statutory supervision of midwives have been achieved; and the full report prepared by the LSAMO will now be submitted to the NMC for their scrutiny. During the coming year the LSAMO will continue to work closely with Maternity Services to support the ongoing compliance with the 54 standards ensuring they are integral to service provision.