Into the future

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NMC Chief Executive and Registrar
What is the NMC’s role?

Our aim is to safeguard the health and well-being of people who use or need the services of nurses and midwives

How do we do this?

• register all nurses and midwives to work in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Islands and the British military worldwide

• set rules for midwifery practice and supervision

• investigate fitness to practice allegations and public concerns

• set standards of education, training and conduct – review of pre registration nursing education

• provide advice
In what context do we do this?

- a UK devolved environment
- variety of settings: NHS, independent sector, third sector and the military
- stakeholder engagement
- public expectation
- proactivity in regulation
Educational dilemmas

• is graduate status ‘old’ news? and where are the voices of graduate nurses?

• modernising nursing careers initiative

• reflecting the direction of UK healthcare policy
  - change of government?
  - health visitor role
  - advanced practice
  - second level ‘nursing’

• meeting evolving patient needs and strength of user feeling

• NMC’s work with patients and patient groups

• ‘too posh to wash’

• leaders as educators – leading by example and the positive role of medical academics in maintaining clinical credibility
Key principles

- degree level
- four fields of practice
- generic and field competencies
- modernising pathways
- three year course minimum
- theory/practice mix

Differing views:

- ensuring nurses are able to practice safely and effectively at the point of registration by the use of essential skills clusters and progression points
- UK wide consistency

Tensions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic</th>
<th>Employer/user</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>autonomy</td>
<td>consistency UK wide</td>
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<tr>
<td>curriculum variation to meet local need</td>
<td>focus on employability/fit for purpose</td>
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<tr>
<td>strong QA</td>
<td>lighter touch QA</td>
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Broad general agreement on key skills

- values and beliefs
- compassion and care
- broad application of nursing skills
- use of technology, research and evidence
- leadership, supervision and team-working

Special emphasis

- dignity and compassion
- needs of vulnerable groups
- equality and diversity
- confident to practice in hospital and community
RPNE timeline

- consultation phase – until 23 April 2010
- reports to Council – July 2010
- standards in place from Autumn 2010
- all new programmes in place – September 2013
Future challenges

• four country regulation
• forthcoming changes in Westminster
• revalidation
• fitness for practice and using data from ftp and cautions and convictions to help us to provide evidence based recruitment advice for universities and produce better guidance
• advanced nursing practice and specialist nursing
• ‘second level’ nursing
• healthcare support workers
• escalating concerns
• ‘proactive regulation’
• health visiting and school nursing
Finally …

It’s not all about London, England or even the NHS - we are developing our plans for Scotland
Questions and answers

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