

In May, the Professional Standards Authority (the body that oversees our work), **published a report** that looked at the way we investigated midwives from Furness General Hospital.

Our approach to these investigations – particularly how we communicated with families – was unacceptable.

We've now put together a **programme of work** that sets out how we plan to implement and build on the recommendations of the report. The plan will be discussed by our Council at their public meeting on 25 July.

Philip Graf, our Chair of Council said: "The mistakes of the past should never have happened and no apology will ever be enough for the families we so badly let down. But we're absolutely committed to learning the lessons of the past and ensuring that no other families have to go through the same experience again."

Last month's **report from the Gosport Independent Panel** set out failures in care on a shocking scale. This report is a stark reminder that patients and their families must always be at the heart of what we do.

Our Director of Fitness to Practise, Matthew McClelland, said: "I want to pay tribute to the families who have fought for 20 years to understand what happened to their loved ones at Gosport. It's clear that we and others badly let them

down and I am very sorry for the role we have played in that.

"We will carefully review the report to see what action we may need to take and what lessons we can learn."

All nurses and midwives need to pay an annual **registration fee** to stay on the register. You can help make sure the nurses and midwives you employ make this payment on time by reminding them that they can set up a direct debit using **NMC Online**.

This is the easiest way to pay it, and there's an option to pay in quarterly installments. Once it's set up, you don't need to worry about missing a deadline and being automatically removed from the register.

We have become the **regulator in law for nursing associates** – the new role designed to bridge the gap between unregulated healthcare assistants and registered nurses in England.

The first nursing associates will join our register early next year.

It's wonderful to see how everyone has been celebrating 70 years of the NHS and the amazing work that nurses and midwives do.

To mark the occasion, Geraldine Walters, our Director of Education and Standards wrote a **blog** about her experiences of working in the NHS. Geraldine began her nurse training in 1975 on one of the first nursing degree courses in the UK.

Jackie Smith is **stepping down from her role** as our Chief Executive and Registrar. She'll leave her post at the end of July.

She said: "I'd like to thank the nurses and midwives on our register – it's been a privilege to work with them and witness the fantastic care they deliver day in and out."

We're **reviewing how we register nurses and midwives who trained outside the EU**.

The first change we're making is to the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). From 16 July 2018, applicants who trained outside the UK and EEA will only have to re-sit the parts of the OSCE assessment they failed and won't have to re-sit parts they previously passed.

We hope this will make it a more proportionate and flexible process.

Tell us what you think

We want to hear from people across the UK about their experiences of our overseas registration process and their views on how it could be improved. On 9 August we're holding a **webinar for employers** involved in recruiting nurses and midwives from overseas, such as directors of nursing and HR directors. Can't make it? Find out more ways to **get involved**.

After several years of development, we're pleased to have published the new standards for education and training and the new nursing standards of proficiency.

These have been developed with input from stakeholders across the UK, so a big thank you to everyone who has been involved.

This is the **first stage of our ongoing review** of our education standards. We're currently developing the standards of proficiency for midwives and reviewing the way we quality-assure nursing and midwifery education.

Following **changes to our legislation**, we're no longer accepting applications to join sub-part 2 of the nursing register. This change came into effect on 12 July 2018.

Since the late 1990s, no new UK-trained people have been eligible to apply to join this part of the register. It was open to new applicants from outside the UK, although the number of applications we received was very small.

This won't affect anyone currently registered on sub-part 2 of the nursing register. They will continue to revalidate and renew their registration as normal. So you and your employees don't need to take any action.