

Case for Direct Award to the Royal College of Psychiatrists to provide a learning outcomes framework, reflecting the service pathway, for a multi-disciplinary Credential in Perinatal Mental Health

Health Education England (HEE) believe that the Royal College of Psychiatrists is the only organisation capable of delivering the specific requirements to develop a learning outcomes framework for a multi-disciplinary Credential in Perinatal Mental Health. The Royal College of Psychiatrists is the only supplier with the requisite expertise and experience to assist HEE in fulfilling the Mandate deliverables and actions of UK government policy including the Long-Term Plan.

The NHS Long Term Plan commits ‘to improving access to and the quality of perinatal mental health care for mothers, their partners and children’. The significant expansion of perinatal services necessitates a considered approach to skills development for all disciplines engaged. Development of the workforce, via a skills training programme to support capacity and capability building, responds to gaps in service delivery, enhances workforce skills, widens participation (by providing flexibility) and delivers on-going opportunities for professional development. This supports national policy and the commitment to grow mental health services.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists conducted a scoping exercise (commissioned by HEE) on the feasibility of delivering a multi-disciplinary credential programme for the specialist workforce engaged in delivering perinatal mental health (PMH) services. The project interviewed workforce and representative/regulatory workforce bodies from the main disciplines engaged in PMH services (Psychology, Nursing, Nursery Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Midwifery, Health Visiting, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Lived Experience, and had previously developed and delivered an extensive capacity and capability building programme for Perinatal Psychiatrists).

Views expressed in the Scoping report indicate that current perinatal mental health training and services are not sufficiently joined-up across specialties, healthcare organisations, or across England and the devolved nations, to sufficiently meet women’s and service need.

The development of a multi-disciplinary credential in Perinatal Mental Health provides an opportunity to synchronise and support the various disciplines with a coordinated approach. This will support and value each role as an essential component to delivering specialist services; supporting a shared way of working; demonstrating a core ethos; and embodying competencies reflecting and delivering excellent outcomes for women and their families. A multidisciplinary credential will ensure equitable distribution of support and funding for the development of the

specialist workforce and ensure a training programme supporting a specialist service pathway does not propagate workforce development disparities.

HEE believes that it is highly unlikely for any other supplier to be able to provide the following skills/tools provided by the Royal College of Psychiatrists as a current supplier for the following reasons:

- The Royal College of Psychiatrists are *'the professional medical body responsible for supporting psychiatrists throughout their careers from training through to retirement, and in setting and raising standards of psychiatry in the United Kingdom'*. [RCPsych website](#).
- The Royal College of Psychiatrists has specialist expertise that could not be sought elsewhere, as it is responsible for and is the only author of the postgraduate curricula that deliver the professional and clinical standards for Psychiatry in England. The development of this credential by the Royal College of Psychiatrists is also required in order to provide system partners, patients, providers and other key stakeholders assurance in the quality of the content.
- The Royal College of Psychiatrists have already demonstrated they can develop and delivered a post-CCT credential (in Liaison Psychiatry), have evidenced a credential in Perinatal Psychiatry and have undertaken the scoping work required to deliver this multidisciplinary credential.
- The case for the development of this credential has been signed off by HEE and meets a mandate deliverable. The Royal College of Psychiatrists have a proven track record of delivering similar projects within budget and timelines, and HEE have confidence in the College of the ability to deliver despite the impact of Covid upon the healthcare system and organisations.
- Conversations are ongoing around the impact of Covid on projects which already are being delivered by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, however at this time there is confidence within the delivery timeline.

The duration of the direct award is 5 months:

To develop a learning outcomes framework for a multi-disciplinary Credential in Perinatal Mental Health.

If the Royal College of Psychiatrists are unable to provide dedicated services, there will be a detrimental impact on HEE service delivery for several reasons:

- Significant delay to the development of the credential and lack of system recognition - the Royal College of Psychiatrists are the author of the

postgraduate curricula that deliver the professional and clinical standards for Psychiatry and have already completed a scoping exercise on delivering a multi-disciplinary credential programme for the Perinatal Mental Health specialist workforce.

- Stakeholder engagement will be adversely impacted if HEE are unable to utilise the contacts and networks which the Royal College of Psychiatrists have access to.

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