

**Gateway No: 17203**

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Dear SHA Cluster Workforce Directors

### **Maternity Workforce: Forward Work**

I am writing to update you on progress and plans for the maternity workforce. As you know, Liz Redfern helpfully led a piece of work last Autumn to take stock of SHA plans in relation to the maternity workforce, including midwifery numbers and training commissions.

The data submitted by the SHAs showed an expected 6% increase in planned midwifery workforce numbers from March 2012 to March 2015. The data also showed that midwifery training will remain at near record levels up to 2015 – and it is very welcome that the latest provisional figures for midwife training commissions underline this commitment with a figure of 2555 for 2012/13.

We have now shared the SHA plans with Ministers. Ministers found the update useful in the context of the Coalition Agreement commitment to extend informed and safe maternity choices.

We will provide Ministers with regular updates on the monthly workforce data to keep track of progress and we will also take stock of the final 2012/13 education commission numbers in May. We have also commissioned the Centre for Workforce Intelligence to undertake an in-depth analysis by Summer 2012 of the maternity workforce to inform 2013/14 education commissions and report.

I am copying this letter to the Chief Nursing Officer.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jan Sobieraj'.

**Jan Sobieraj  
Managing Director for NHS and Social Care Workforce  
Department of Health**

Copy: Chief Nursing Officer  
SHA Workforce Planners  
SHA Education & Training Commissioners  
Ruth Monger  
Joe McArdle  
Jane Verity  
Jamie Rentoul  
Peter Grummit  
Tanveer Hussain