SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

BN/Dip He Nursing & B Midwifery

Guidance on Pre-Registration Student Nurses and Midwives Shift Patterns

With the current changes to the shift patterns of some staff within the NHS it is timely to review the guidance on shift patterns for pre-registration nursing and midwifery students. The content of this guidance has been influenced by NMC Standards & Guidance, Health and Safety Legislation and the Equality Act.

With the above in mind the following guidance has been created:-

1. All pre-registration nursing and midwifery students are required to undertake learning experiences that reflect the 24 hour, 7 day a week nature of nursing. The focus of placements will be the service being provided and the delivery of care.

2. Students should normally undertake the shift pattern of the placement location they are in. When planning shifts students and their mentors must ensure they adhere to points 3 – 6 under-noted.

3. Students must be supervised directly/indirectly by their named mentors for a minimum of 40% of a placement (NMC 2008).

4. Students under the age of 18 cannot undertake shifts of more than 8 hours or embark on night duty. Specifically they must not be on duty between the hours of 22.00 and 06.00 hours or 23.00 and 07.00 hours.

5. When arranging shift patterns, students and their mentors must ensure that they adhere to :-

    a. any reasonable adjustments outlined for practice
    b. EU working time requirements

6. Once a student has agreed shifts they are going to undertake they should not request or make changes to the rota at the last minute

16.05.11

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