

# The Royal College of Midwives Legal Birth: A Conference

## Ensuring safety and continuity of care

Registered for  
6 hours CPD

**Tuesday 7 July 2015**

**At The Royal College of Physicians**, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE

**£130 + VAT**

Corporate bookings: for every four places booked you will receive a free place



*The Royal College of*  
**Midwives**

In association with

**BOND  
SOLO** 

A Wilmington Company

Supported by an  
educational grant  
from:



**DANONE  
NUTRICIA**  
Early Life Nutrition

# The Royal College of Midwives Legal Birth: A Conference

## Conference Timetable

### 8.30 Registration and refreshments

### 9.30 Welcome and introduction from the Chair

*Professor Cathy Warwick CBE, Chief Executive, The Royal College of Midwives*

### 9.40 Freedom to speak up – creating an open and honest reporting culture

- The need for the maternity services review
- High quality assessment of risk
- Inter-professional communication and transfer
- Open and honest reporting culture

*Professor James Walker, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Leeds*

### 10.10 Our journey towards an open and honest culture and its impact on safety

- Our journey in maternity services in NHS Ayrshire and Arran
- Using a recognised tool to understand your culture
- How we worked with our staff to change the culture – from front-line clinical staff to the management team

*Angela Cunningham, Associate Nurse Director, Women & Children's Services, NHS Ayrshire & Arran*

### 10.30 Open forum

Do you have any questions or comments?

### 10.45 Refreshments, posters and exhibition

### 11.15 Annual legal midwifery update

- Informed consent - Montgomery v Lanarkshire Health Board [2015] UKSC 11
- Abortion and conscientious objection - Doogan and Wood v NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board [2013] CSIH 36

*Barbara Hewson, Barrister, 1 Gray's Inn Square*

### 11.45 Hot topic: what is the future for midwifery regulation?

Question Time, chaired by Cathy Warwick, with:

*Jackie Smith, Chief Executive, NMC*

*Baroness Audrey Emerton DBE DL*

*Jess Read, LSA Midwifery Officer for London*

*Prof. Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent, Head of Maternity, NHS England*

### 12.40 Lunch, posters, exhibition and networking

*Afternoon session chaired by Andrew Andrews MBE, Director of Health & Social Care, Bond Solon*

### 13.50 Decision making in the context of the Mental Capacity Act

- Autonomy and the woman's right of self-determination
- Working in partnership
- The capacity assessment
- Acting in her best interest and ensuring continuity of care

*Andrew Andrews MBE, Director of Health & Social Care, Bond Solon*

### 14.20 The Coroner's Court

- Nature and purpose of the inquest
- The verdict
- Learning lessons from the evidence

*Andrew Andrews MBE, Director of Health & Social Care, Bond Solon*

### 14.35 Refreshments, posters and exhibition

### 15.05 Coroner's Court: a maternal death

In this roleplay we aim to explore issues of safety and continuity of care, and provide a snapshot of what it is like to attend an inquest. You, the audience, are the jury and decide the outcome.

The characters:

Coroner *Leslie Cuthbert, Solicitor Advocate and Bond Solon Trainer*

Midwife *Colleen Begg, Head of Midwifery and Gynaecology, and Clinical Director for Women and Children's, Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust*

Coordinator *Lesley Gaskell-Wood, Regional Officer, RCM*

Husband *Felipe Castro Cardona, Consultant Midwife, Barts Health NHS Trust*

Lawyer *Catherine Brown, Barrister and Bond Solon Trainer*

Lawyer *Graham Watson, Barrister*

Coroner's Officer *Isabel West, Solicitor and Bond Solon Trainer*

### 16.20 Open forum

Do you have any questions or comments?

### 16.35 Closing remarks from the afternoon Chair

### 16.45 Close

# The Royal College of Midwives Legal Birth: A Conference

Now in its seventh year, this unique conference considers and debates current legal issues facing midwives. This year we will focus on ensuring the safety of women and their babies, and the continuity of their care.

The 'Legal Birth' conference has proved to be a consistently popular event: between 180 and 250 delegates have booked onto this conference each year since its launch in 2009. Delegates have seen this event as a valuable opportunity to meet, network and share experiences with colleagues working for other organisations.

## Speakers include



**Professor Cathy Warwick CBE** is Chief Executive of the Royal College of Midwives. She has held a number of senior posts in midwifery education and in the NHS managing midwifery and nursing services. Cathy has been Chair of the Midwifery Committee at the Nursing and Midwifery Council.



**Jackie Smith** was appointed the NMC's Chief Executive and Registrar in October 2012, having joined the NMC as the director of Fitness to Practise (FtP) in August 2010. Jackie's background is in law and she worked for the General Medical Council for over 10 years as an assistant director.



**Professor James Walker** is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Leeds. He is also on a number of national advisory bodies including the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA), the Centre of Maternal and Childhealth enquiries (CMACE) and the National Maternity Services Review launched in April.



**Andrew Andrews MBE** is a lawyer by profession and a respected legal advisor. Andrew is an established and recognised medico-legal trainer. His present responsibilities include Director Health & Social Care Bond Solon and National Safeguarding Officer St John Ambulance.



**Angela Cunningham** has held the post of Associate Nurse Director, Women & Children's Services at NHS Ayrshire & Arran for 14 years. She is currently seconded to Healthcare Improvement Scotland for 2 days a week and is the Clinical Midwifery Lead on the Maternity and Children Quality Improvement Collaborative, which is part of the Scottish Patient Safety Programme.



**Leslie Cuthbert** is a Solicitor-Advocate and a trainer with Bond Solon. His other roles include: Panel Chair for the Fitness to Practice Committee of the NMC, Tribunal Judge chairing hearings under the Mental Health Act, a trainer of lawyers and investigators and Managing Director of a specialist Investigative Interviewing company.



**Barbara Hewson** regularly ranked as a Leading Junior by the Legal 500 in the fields of Public & Administrative Law, Human Rights & Civil Liberties, and Professional Discipline and Regulatory Law. Chambers UK (2014) describes Barbara as "bright passionate and committed ...her client manner is outstanding."



**Colleen Begg** has been a midwife for over 27 years. Between 2010 and 2012 Colleen also held a Midwifery Adviser post at the NMC, taking a lead role in Statutory Supervision of Midwives across the UK. In April 2013 she decided to go back into NHS management and joined Southend as Head of Midwifery and Gynaecology.



**Baroness Emerton DBE DL** is a cross bench member of the House of Lords. Audrey Emerton has held a number of senior posts within the NHS, including Regional Nursing Officer of South East Thames Regional Health Authority and Chairman of Brighton Health Care NHS Trust.



**Isabel West** is a solicitor qualified in both England and Scotland. After years as a civil litigation partner she joined Bond Solon in 2005 and was Head of Expert Witness Group for several years. She continues to train witnesses in the skills of giving evidence and responding to cross-examination.



**Professor Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent** has worked as a midwife and a nurse and held senior positions in education, leadership and management in the NHS and higher education. She is Director of Midwifery and Divisional Director of Nursing for Women's and Children's services at Imperial College Healthcare Trust, and currently seconded to NHS England.



**Graham Watson** is a barrister with 15 years' experience in civil and regulatory law. Graham represents clients across the UK, from large organisations such as health trusts and local authorities, to smaller owner-managed businesses and individual directors and employees.



**Jess Read** has worked across all aspects of the maternity services with experience in Community midwifery and promotion of home birth to managing a busy Labour ward, Birth Centre and Community Services. Jess is currently LSA Midwifery Officer for London and Chair of the LSAMO Forum UK.



**Catherine Brown** has over 14 years' experience as a barrister in common law fields. She was appointed to the Attorney General's Panel for a Regional Counsel and, in this role, represented government bodies including prisons and NHS trusts at many Article 2 Inquests where issues of system failure and neglect arose.

