

Supporting statement on behalf of East Cheshire team of Supervisors of Midwives

Lisa Bacon

North West Local Supervising Authority Midwifery Officer

28th March 2011

As the North West LSA Midwifery Officer I can verify that the team of Supervisors of Midwives at East Cheshire NHS Trust are highly motivated and represent a rich mix of skills, expertise and leadership in the practice setting. At a recent annual LSA audit of supervision in the unit where statutory supervision is benchmarked against the national LSA standards for supervision it was evident that the supervisors had gone over and above what would be expected of them in terms of achievement of these standards. As an example, to achieve a 74% response rate in any survey is an achievement in itself but when that survey is carried out within the context of a busy maternity unit that is testament to the proactive work undertaken by the supervisors in this organisation. This mix of skills and expertise has been harnessed and grown within the group to provide high standards of care for women and their families. Over the last 12 months they have been productive and proactive in working tirelessly to raise the profile of supervision of midwifery with midwives, women and families, the wider organisation and across the UK through publication. In this current climate where supervisors of midwives are being increasingly asked to provide evidence of the effectiveness of supervision this is one example where that evidence of added value is clear to see. The Supervisors of Midwives at East Cheshire continue to endeavour to be seen as leaders and champions of midwifery and of women's needs with a firm focus on best practice in a time of employment and service provision uncertainty.