

## **Executive Summary**

The Department of Health (DH) has been working with higher education, the professional bodies, the Workforce Development Confederations and the Nursing and Midwifery Council for some time to facilitate a more streamlined approach to the approval and monitoring of DH funded education and training provision in England. (Equivalent initiatives are being pursued in the other UK countries, but are at different stages of development).

The DH-led initiative has completed a round of consultations in November – December 2002 (supported by the Council) which have confirmed support for what are called " Partnership Working Arrangements ". Part of the consultation process was a presentation to the Education and Training Committee (ETC) and ETC has been engaging with the development of the proposals to this point.

DH is now asking for a joint letter to be signed by itself and the two regulatory bodies (HPC and NMC) committing themselves publicly for their part to engage in the proposed arrangements. This commitment is, in practice, only to engage in a series of national fora and to debate the issues on their merits. HPC has been doing this already and it is wholly consistent with the requirement in Part II of the Health Professions Order for the Council to work collaboratively.

It is recommended that the Council authorise the President to sign the letter noting that the President and Chairman of ETC are proposing that they together with Prof Jeff Lucas, Miss Eileen Thornton, and Prof Carol Lloyd should be nominated to the various fora as appropriate.