

Expert Profile

Linda Crocker-Eakins

Profession	Registered Midwife
Qualifications	MSc Midwifery, PG Dip Ed, BA, RM, RN, RNDiploma in Professional Studies in Nursing
Specialisms	Practice Development Midwife, PROMPT trainer- obstetric emergencies
Registration	NMC 7910812E

Introduction

I qualified as a Registered Nurse in 1982, and went on to qualify as a Registered Midwife in 1984. I have practised clinically in all areas, most of them at a senior level, and taught both students and midwives whilst working as a Midwife Lecturer at Bournemouth University. I have attended cases at the NMC and have supported staff members who have been required to write statements and / or give evidence. Within my leadership role, my developmental work with the new Birthing Suite was shortlisted and commended both at local and national level.

Until recently, I worked as a Practice Development Midwife for the Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and worked in this role since April 2011. This was a multi-faceted role, involving client care, education, and management; providing client care both directly and as support to newly qualified staff. This is across all areas of the midwifery service, meaning that my practice stays current, and I am competent and confident in all areas of midwifery practice, including carrying out newborn and infant physical examinations. I designed and developed programs of education following analysis of the training needs of 200 staff; to fulfil statutory and mandatory training. To do this I utilised national guidelines, recent research, local statistics and academic commentary; enabling me to remain constantly and continually updated in these areas. My line-manager responsibilities were to a group of newly qualified midwives, supporting both in clinical practice and educational development. I also acted as 'Board Holder' through a rota system being the senior midwife for the service across the conurbation and wider geographical area. I continue to work clinically across different Trusts and support service developments on an ad-hoc basis, dependent on need and in response to untoward incidents.

I regularly supported students in their clinical placements and contributed to assessments via OSCEs. I recently returned to study on a part-time basis, completing a variety of law courses via The Open University / College of Law; and am now commencing a Masters in Medical Law and Ethics. I am a PROMPT trainer, providing multidisciplinary training in obstetric emergencies, and 'live drills' in accordance with a national framework

I was appointed by NHS England to act as a Supervisor of Midwives concurrent to my substantive role. Within this role I provide guidance and leadership to midwives and act as a role model. I support the development of best practice through audit, education and implementing of guidelines, which are subject to peer review. Following investigation of untoward incidents I have supported midwives through developmental support and supervised practice.

Since 2015, I have taken on the role of Expert Supervisor with Somek & Associates, supporting other & less experienced experts on a case by case basis. The role requires significant experience in working as an expert witness and ensures quality standard of reports & support throughout all aspects of the expert witness role. I continue to accept instructions from both Claimant and Defendant Solicitors and Insurers. I have undergone formal training in the medico-legal process and am fully aware of my responsibilities under the Civil Procedure Rules (CPR) pertaining to Expert Witnesses.

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SOMEK AND ASSOCIATES LTD
9 Chess Business Park, Moor Road,
Chesham, Buckinghamshire, HP5 1SD
DX: 50301 Chesham
T: 01494 792711
F: 01494 799999
E: admin@somek.com

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Professional Affiliations

Member of the Royal College of Midwives

Professional Education

- 1995** MSc Midwifery, RCN / University of Manchester
- 1992** PGDip Ed. South Bank University London
- 1991** Diploma in Professional Studies in Nursing, Bournemouth University
- 1991** BA, Open University
- 1984** Registered Midwife, Southampton University Hospitals
- 1982** Registered Nurse, Basildon & Thurrock School of Nursing

Current Employment

Practice Educator, Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Start: **July 2015** - End: **Current**

Working in a practice educator role on a part-time basis following identification of issues through case review, RCA or incident report. Identifying service delivery improvements via audit and implementing training programmes within a defined budget via a variety of methods.

Current Employment

Midwife, Yeovil District Hospital

Start: **July 2015** - End: **Current**

Working as a midwife in all clinical areas in a District General Hospital

Current Employment

Expert supervisor off-site, Somek & Associates

Start: **May 2015** - End: **Current**

Working to provide supervision / mentoring to less experienced associates on a case by case basis. This is through all aspects of their role; and particularly to ensure the quality and standard of reports being submitted.

Practice Development Midwife, Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Start: **April 2011** - End: **May 2015**

This is a multi-faceted role, involving client care, education, and management; providing client care both directly and as support to newly qualified staff. This is across all areas of the midwifery service, meaning that my practice stays current, and I am competent and confident in all areas of midwifery practice. I designed and developed programs of education following analysis of the training needs of 200 staff; to fulfil statutory and mandatory training.

Lead Midwife - Promoting Normality, Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Start: **September 2006** - End: **2011**

This was a new post on the newly developed Midwife Led Birthing Suite. My role involved recruitment and selection of team members both internal and external candidates; coordinating fund raising for equipment. I developed the water birth service including writing policies and audit; and working alongside staff to demonstrate good practice through my own skills. I also had line manager responsibilities for the team. I supported clients who wished to have care which was alternative to our guidelines and policies. Board Holder function as above. Attendance and presentation at Clinical Governance, Directorate level and audit meetings.

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Supervisor of Midwives, NHS South West

Start: **2005** - End: **June 2015**

Following the Preparation of Supervisor of Midwives Course I was appointed by NHS South West to the supervisory team based at Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. This provides a service to ensure the public is protected through proactive midwifery supervision as laid out in statute. Within this dynamic role I provide peer support for a group of midwives, auditing records on a regular basis and suggesting action plans for deficit / remedial support for midwives where record keeping or care has found to be substandard. I also audit records following adverse outcomes providing analysis of care and suggested interventions.

Smokestop Coordinator, South and East Dorset Primary Care Trust

Start: **June 2003** - End: **March 2006**

Part time work in addition to working as a community midwife. Organisation and development of the smoking cessation service for the PCT. Included client contact both in individual consultations, groups and drop-ins; Training of 150 part time staff. Development of Yearly conference for all staff using innovative approaches to learning; audit of service and presentations to department and board.

Community Midwife - Rural Team, Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Start: **November 2000** - End: **2006**

Managing a caseload of women in a rural area providing antenatal, intrapartum and post natal care in a variety of settings. Liaison with the larger multi-disciplinary team depending on client need. Audit of outcomes for low risk women which were presented to Trust, GPs and PCT.

Midwifery Lecturer, Bournemouth University (originally as a secondment from Poole Trust)

Start: **September 1992** - End: **October 2000**

A midwifery lecturer with responsibility for a cohort of students. Management of learning units. Theoretical teaching for a variety of units; curriculum development. Link lecturer to a variety of clinical areas across the South; which encompassed clinical practice and teaching in all areas of the service.

Midwifery Sister, Halifax General Hospital

Start: **1986** - End: **1989**

Courses / Events

I have also completed the following medico-legal training courses;

2017: Somek & Associates Annual Conference, Somek & Associates

2016 Somek & Associates Annual Conference, Somek & Associates

2015 Somek & Associates Annual Conference, Somek & Associates

2015 Introduction to Supervision for New Expert Supervisors, Somek and Associates

2013 Courtroom Skills, Bond Solon

2013 Advanced Report Writing Skills for Liability Experts, Pro Solutions

2013 Writing Expert Liability Reports, Somek and Associates

2013 The Role of the Expert Witness and the Civil Procedure Rules, Somek and Associates