



ASSOCIATION OF RADICAL MIDWIVES

Role of Steering Group Members

What is the Steering Group ?

The Association of Radical Midwives is directed and run by a steering Group of 8 -12 members and also consists of the officers of treasurer, membership secretary, magazine editor and national coordinator. The steering group meets quarterly as a minimum, usually before national meetings, in the house of a local member. All members are welcome to attend but only steering group members can vote on final decisions. Extraordinary meetings are held to discuss issues which need further detailed discussion, these may be in person or more usually via conferencing technology.

Quarterly meetings are attended by between 10 and 20 people, and information about forthcoming meetings can be found in Midwifery Matters and on our website. Meetings are informal and the host provides food which is always most enjoyable. Overnight accommodation is usually provided by local members and travel expenses may be claimed if required.

Who Can Stand for the Steering Group?

Any member of more than a year's duration is welcome to stand for the steering group and we hope to attract anyone who has an interest and enthusiasm for midwifery and for promoting optimal care in pregnancy and childbirth. Long experience as a midwife is not essential and we have had a number of members who are retired, student midwives and some non- midwives. This provides a good balance and representation of the members.

We are looking for enthusiasm, fresh ideas and a willingness to engage with the practical and the political support of good maternity care. Useful (but by no means essential), specialist skills include experience in charities and fundraising, publicity and promotion, information technology and midwifery education.

We run study days and conferences and provide responses to government reviews of maternity care and current issues. We run a helpline, answer questions, and make contributions to media discussions and articles on midwifery and maternity care. We are represented in the European Midwives Association and have been members of the International Confederation of Midwives and we aim to form networks and alliances with other midwifery organisations and other groups with interests aligning with our own such as AIMS. Our members support midwives who are undergoing fitness to practice hearings, bullying at work and other disciplinary matters through "Midwives' Haven". We have recently run a series of online workshops and study days and have an active student midwives' forum. We have for many years held a very reasonably priced annual retreat/holiday for members in some beautiful settings.

What Do I Gain by being a Steering Group Member?

The opportunity to meet like-minded people with commitment to midwifery and good maternity care, to make friends and learn how midwifery is practised and care delivered in different parts of the UK and the world.

To gain information and keep up to date with the political influences on maternity care.

The opportunity to respond to consultations on maternity care.

To learn more about midwifery, childbirth and education and be part of a network of people active in maternity and women's issues.

What is Expected of Steering Group Members

ARM is a charity and all steering group members are trustees and are responsible for the financial health of ARM. A number of documents give very clear information on the role of trustees and are made available on the charities commission website at www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved

To aim to attend at least 3 out of the 4 quarterly meetings.

To send apologies if unable to come.

To keep in touch with other steering group members at least once a week via our Facebook group or by e mail.

To complete actions agreed at meetings in a timely manner.

To be engaged and enthusiastic!

Members are elected for 3 years and if they wish for another 3 years, after this they must stand down for at least a year when they may again stand for re-election. Members may be nominated by a members of the steering group or may nominate themselves.

In Conclusion

Please put your name forward if you feel that membership of the steering group is for you. If we have more nominations than places available there will be a secret ballot of members at the September 2021 AGM. We anticipate there will be 3-5 vacant places this year. Present steering group members welcome any enquiries or requests for further information about the role. Please contact Katherine Hales. National Coordinator for general information about ARM at enquiries@midwifery.org.uk.