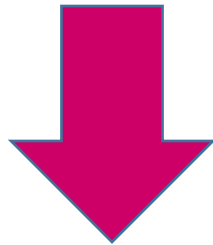


How did we arrive here?

- Midwives concerned we do not receive training in relation to midwifery skills & knowledge
- Evidence review
- Training & Education Forum submits an SBAR to HoM
- Agreed for 3 hours on a Professional Update Day

Aim:



Invest in Midwives
Increase workforce satisfaction
Evidence-based practice
Improve perinatal outcomes
Tackle the over-medicalisation of childbirth
Protect the future of midwifery practice

By optimising the core role of midwives as experts in normality the evidence tells us that we can:

- Decrease transfer rate from Midwife-led Areas
 - Reduce unnecessary EM LSCS/forcep/ventousebirth, perineal trauma, SSIs

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Situation

Midwives as experts in normality, do not currently receive any mandatory or formalised training in support of their role in relation to supporting normal, physiological labour and birth in Swansea Bay University Health Board.

The definition of a midwife, as adopted in the 2019 Standards of Proficiency for Midwives (NMC, 2019), describes the core characteristics, which includes optimising the normal biological, psychological, social, and cultural processes of reproduction and early life (Lancet, 2014).

'Too much, too soon'

For women without complications, a midwifery led model of care supports improved pregnancy, birth and early years' outcomes (Brocklehurst et al. 2011). A concern raised in a Lancet Series by Miller et al. (2016) describes a 'Too Much Too Soon' situation whereby the over-medicalisation of normal pregnancy and birth leads to unnecessary intervention causing harm.

Investing in Midwives

We know that midwifery care improves outcomes for women and their babies, reduces intervention and subsequently morbidity and mortality. Midwives to provide this care, need an environment and culture that prioritises and invests in their midwives as they support normal, physiological pregnancy and birth. We suggest that embedding this as a priority and expectation within our mandatory training in Swansea Bay will improve outcomes and experience for our women and their babies, and improve workforce satisfaction.