

Spring is finally fully here in all its beauty, with all the trees and flowers blossoming. We are also cheered by the continuing resilience and commitment of our UKMidSS reporters to contribute to our national research, providing information to support women and their choices about place of birth, and impacting on policy and practice. It's a challenging time for midwifery at the moment, but once again, you are going above and beyond for women and their families, despite the pressures of staffing shortages and the continuing presence of COVID.

The value of the work that we do together was highlighted when we saw that the paper based on our 2018/2019 UKMidSS survey about midwifery unit admission criteria was mentioned in the Ockenden Report. You can access the paper online in [PLOS ONE](#). Also in this newsletter, we've got news about another UKMidSS paper that has just been published. We wouldn't have been able to generate those results without your help!!

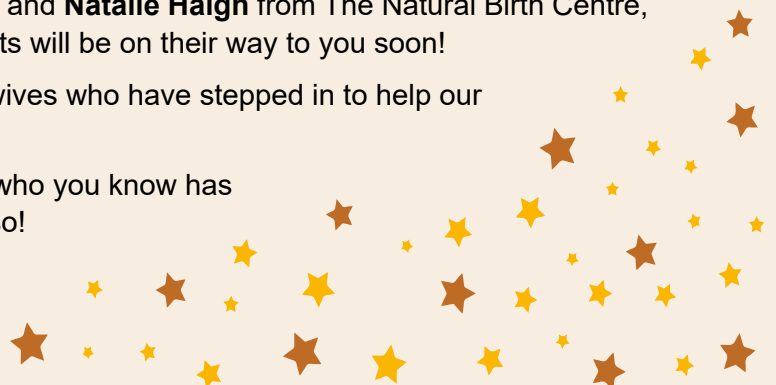


UKMidSS Spring Stars

This time we're acknowledging three midwives who deserve particular recognition for their extra work catching up with reporting/ data entry. Our May stars are: **Ruth Bowen**, who reports for Truro Birth Centre, Penrice Birth Centre, and The Birthing Room, on St Mary's in the Isles of Scilly; **Nia Williams** from The Birth Centre, Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital; and **Natalie Haigh** from The Natural Birth Centre, West Middlesex University Hospital. Some biscuits will be on their way to you soon!

We would also like to thank all the research midwives who have stepped in to help our reporters over the past few months.

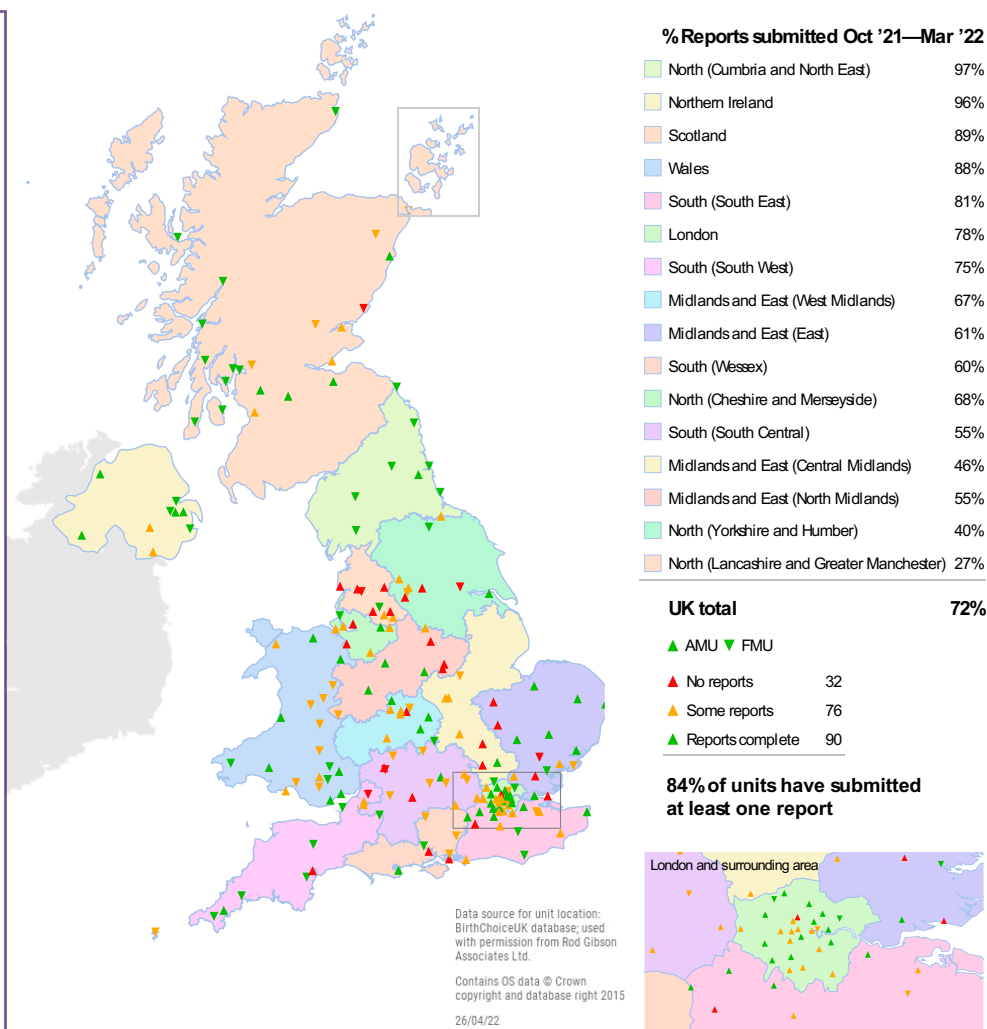
Lastly, if you would like to nominate a colleague who you know has been doing a great job for UKMidSS, please do so!



Diabetes Study update

Our Diabetes Study started in October 2021, with the first report request sent out on 1st November. This means that we are more than half way to finishing reporting!

So far, over 80% of units have submitted at least one monthly report, and response to individual monthly report requests is around 70%. This is lower than usual for this stage in a study, but in the circumstances this is a pretty good effort! We've had 194 cases reported so far, with 73% of data entry completed. If you have data to enter and are waiting for your OpenClinica login details, please contact Alessandra at ukmidss@npeu.ox.ac.uk. She will chase those for you.



We need your reports!

We urgently need to hear from the following units. If you are a midwife in one of these units, please get in touch ASAP! We need your help.

Arbroath Community Maternity Unit, Arbroath Infirmary	Cossham Birth Centre, Cossham Hospital	New Beginnings, Southend Hospital
The Acorn Suite, Bedford Hospital	The Exeter Low Risk Birth Unit Royal Devon and Exeter Wonford Hospital	Preston Birth Centre, Royal Preston Hospital
Bluebell Birth Centre North Manchester, General Hospital	Fylde Coast Birth Centre Victoria Hospital, Blackpool	Primrose Midwifery-led Birthing Suite, Hinchingsbrooke Hospital
Broadlands Birth Centre Princess Anne Hospital, Southampton	Goole Midwives Suite, Goole and District Hospital	Sanctuary Birth Centre, Nottingham University Hospital City Campus
Burnley Birth Centre Burnley, General Hospital	The Home from Home Midwifery Led Unit, Royal Surrey County Hospital	Sanctuary Birth Centre, Nottingham University Hospital QMC Campus
The Birth Centre, Whittington Hospital	Lotus Midwifery Unit Leeds, General Infirmary	Sapphire Birth Centre, Whiston Hospital
The Birth Unit, Gloucestershire Royal Hospital	The Mary Rose Birth Centre, Queen Alexandra Hospital	Stroud Maternity Unit, Stroud Maternity Hospital
The Birthing Unit Broomfield Hospital	The Midwife Led Birth Centre, The Royal Oldham Hospital	The White Horse Birth Centre, The Great Western Hospital
Chesterfield Birth Centre, Chesterfield Royal Hospital	The Midwife Led Birth Suite, Royal Bolton Hospital	The Willow Suite Birmingham, Heartlands Hospital
WJC Birthing Centre St Michael's Hospital, Braintree	The Midwife Led Birthing Unit, Peterborough City Hospital	Withybush Midwife Led Unit, Withybush Hospital
Community Maternity Unit, Perth Royal Infirmary	Chorley Birth Centre, Chorley and South Ribble Hospital	The Midwifery Led Birthing Unit, Luton & Dunstable Hospital

Closing soon! Take part now!



UKMidSS Postnatal Care in Midwifery Units Survey

If you haven't done so already, there is still time to complete the Postnatal Care in Midwifery Units Survey. The aim is to describe the scope of postnatal services provided by midwifery-led units across the UK, both before and since the pandemic, with the aim of informing service and good practice guidance development. MSc student midwife Imogen Graham is starting to analyse data from responses, and the early results are looking really interesting. We've had a response from just over 60% of units so far. This is great, but to get the kind of impact we've had from previous surveys we could really do with more. If you haven't already done so, please complete and return the survey as soon as you can. If you have any questions please get in touch with the UKMidSS team.

UKMidSS Steering Group changes

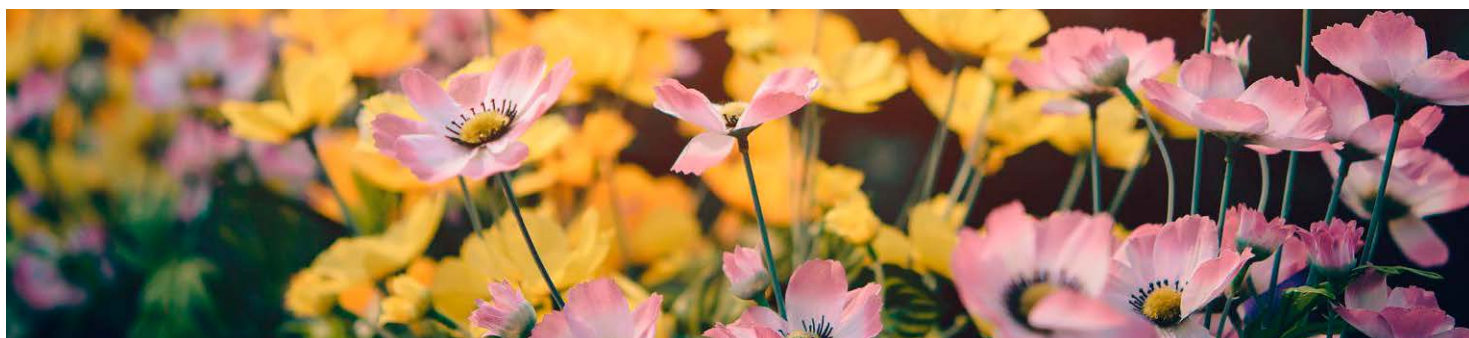
The UKMidSS Steering Group meets three times a year and provides overall strategic direction and governance for the programme, monitoring progress of ongoing studies and planning future studies. At the end of last year we wished a fond farewell to four members of the UKMidSS Steering Group, all of whom had made a major contribution to our projects: Jane Rogers, Julia Sanders, Aung Soe and Catherine Williams. They will be greatly missed!

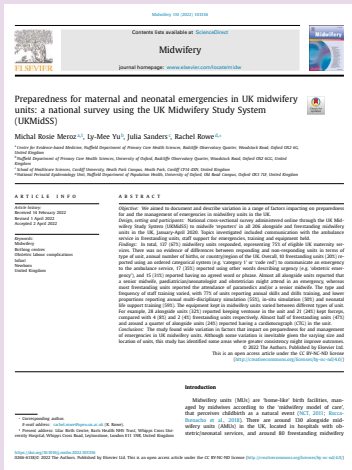
We have now welcomed six new members to the Steering Group: **Posy Bidwell**, Risk and Governance Lead Midwife, Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust; **Maryanne Bray**, Lead Research Midwife, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board; **Katie Colville**, Consultant Midwife, NHS Grampian; **Lisa Smith**, Consultant Midwife, University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Southampton; **Kylie Watson**, Consultant Midwife, St. Mary's Hospital Manchester; and **Amber Marshall**, Lay Member. We are very excited to have you all on board! You can find the full list of members [here](#).



We'll be introducing the new Steering Group members to everyone over the coming months, but to kick off, we have asked Maryanne to introduce herself and her involvement with UKMidSS:

“ I have been a midwife since 2015 and have worked across all area of midwifery, including being an operational manager for our postnatal ward and delivery suite. Since 2019, I have been the lead research midwife within the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. The team has grown to 5 research midwives and a gynae nurse all working exclusively within research on a number of studies. I have also had the pleasure of being a reporter for UKMidSS for 2 years. It is vital that midwives continue to contribute to midwifery research to continually provide women and healthcare professionals with the most up to date evidence base. ”





Latest UKMidSS publication

In early 2020, just before the start of the pandemic, we ran a survey with MSc student Rosie Meroz, which aimed to investigate preparedness for the management of maternal and neonatal emergencies in UK midwifery units. The findings have recently been published in *Midwifery*. The results point to wide variation in some of the factors we looked at, including training and equipment.

Water immersion and raised BMI

You might remember that in early 2021 we ran a survey and collected clinical guidelines about the use of immersion in water. This was part of doctoral research being undertaken by midwife and PhD student Claire Litchfield at Oxford Brookes University.

Claire is investigating whether water immersion might improve rates of physiological birth for women with raised BMI. She's hard at work analysing data from the UKMidSS Severe Obesity Study at the moment, but she's also moving on to the next phase. She will be recruiting midwives through social media channels to take part in interviews about their experiences and views on the topic. For further information about this study please contact Claire Litchfield by email: 17113138@brookes.ac.uk



Update contact details

Is one of your reporters leaving? Is the lead midwife for the MLU going on maternity leave? Is your Head of Midwifery taking a sabbatical? If yes, please do let us know. We rely on updated contact details to communicate news as well as collecting data for our studies.

CPD certificates

If you need a CPD certificate for your revalidation, please get in touch! Being a UKMidSS reporter means that you are contributing to national audit and research. You can drop us an ukmidss@npeu.ox.ac.uk

 @NPEU_UKMidSS  01865 617823  ukmidss@npeu.ox.ac.uk

