



## The Future Midwife: lessons from the UK

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# The Future Midwife – lessons from the UK

- Consider the challenges we are facing, and new opportunities
- Two examples of recent UK developments in midwifery
  - National strategy, Scotland
  - Midwifery education standards, UK
- Reflection on some of the key factors and lessons learned





# Challenges for global midwifery and maternal and newborn health 2020

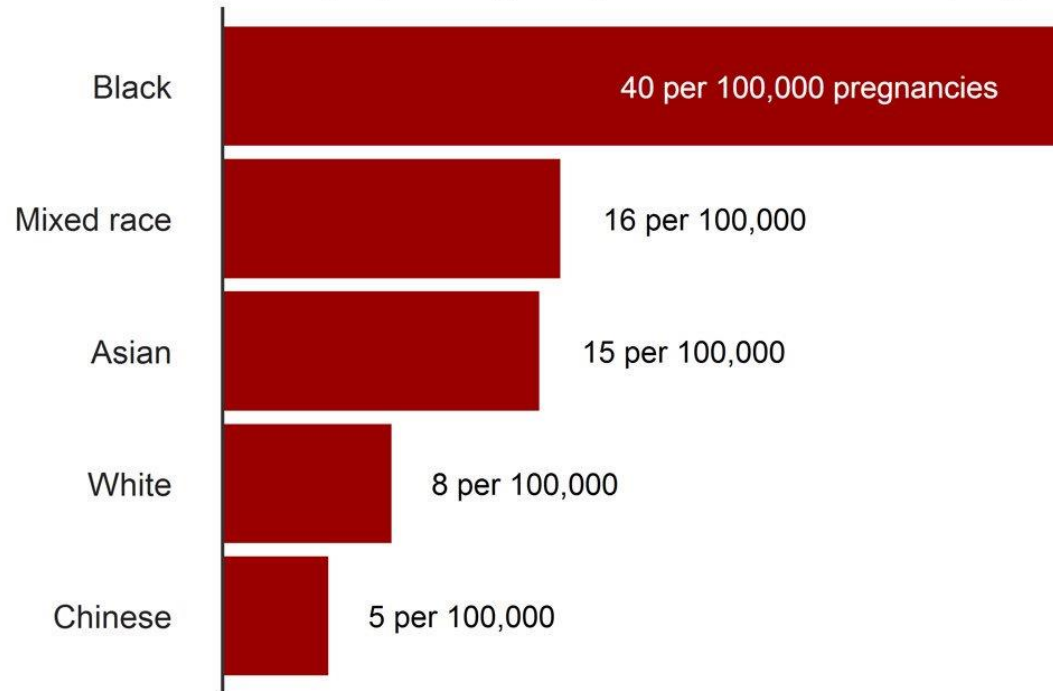
- Unacceptable levels of mortality, increasing inequalities
- Population health profiles changing
- Lack of consistent, equitable, respectful, quality care
- Disrespect and abuse of women and children
- Not listening to women and families
- Focus on the needs of the system, specific interventions
- Over-medicalization of health care, escalating use of interventions
- Divided, divisive, contentious discourses
  - eg safety versus women's own experiences and views



# Inequality in health care

## Maternal death rates in the UK, 2014 to 2016

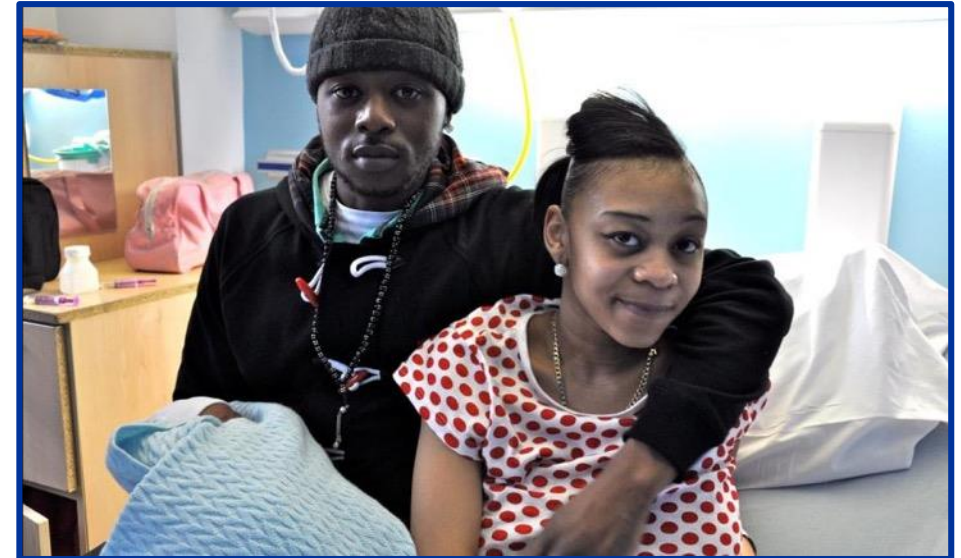
Race of women dying during or up to six weeks after pregnancy



Note: Researchers used England figures to calculate UK rates

Source: MBRRACE


BBC








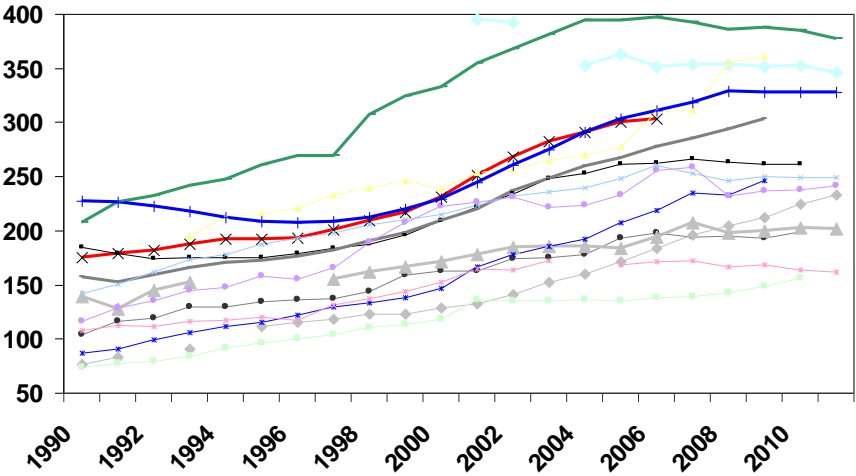
# Challenges for midwives 2020

## Midwives' Voices Midwives' Realities



Findings from a global consultation  
on providing  
quality midwifery care





Trends in caesarean rates, OECD countries  
Thanks to BirthbytheNumbers.org

## The Telegraph

News Politics Sport Business Money Opinion Tech Life Style Travel

UK news World news Royals Health Defence Science Education Investigation

Premium

News

### Women in labour are being denied epidurals by the NHS, amid concern over 'cult of natural childbirth'



## COMMENTARY

BIRTH ISSUES IN PERINATAL CARE WILEY

### Midwifery is a vital solution—What is holding back global progress?

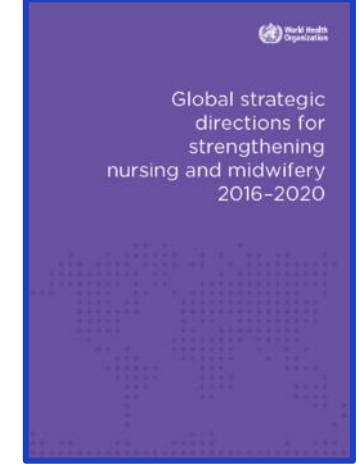
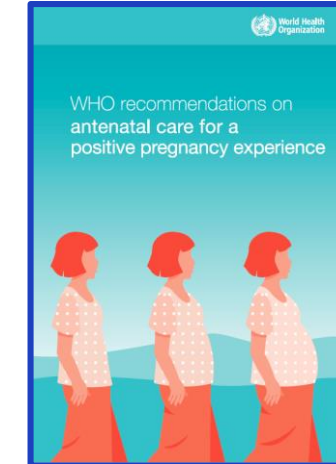
Mary J. Renfrew PhD<sup>1</sup> | Elena Ateva JD Law<sup>2</sup> | Jemima Araba Dennis-Antwi PhD<sup>3</sup> | Deborah Davis PhD<sup>4</sup> | Lesley Dixon PhD<sup>5</sup> | Peter Johnson PhD<sup>6</sup> | Holly Powell Kennedy PhD<sup>7</sup> | Anneka Knutsson PhD<sup>8</sup> | Ornella Lincetto MPH<sup>9</sup> | Fran McConville MA<sup>9</sup> | Alison McFadden PhD<sup>1</sup> | Hatsumi Taniguchi PhD<sup>10</sup> | Petra ten Hoope Bender MBA<sup>11</sup> | Willibald Zeck PhD<sup>12</sup>



# Positive developments for global midwifery and maternal and newborn health



Access to **quality midwifery care** can avert **80%** of maternal and newborn deaths and stillbirth **#MidwiferyEd4SDGs**



## THE LANCET

June, 2014 [www.thelancet.com](http://www.thelancet.com)



'Midwifery is a vital solution to the challenges of providing high quality maternal and newborn care for women and infants in all countries'



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



2020  
INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
OF THE NURSE AND  
THE MIDWIFE

#SupportNursesAndMidwives




World Health  
Organization









# Positive developments for global midwifery and maternal and newborn health

## FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION



### STRENGTHENING QUALITY MIDWIFERY EDUCATION

for  
Universal Health Coverage 2030

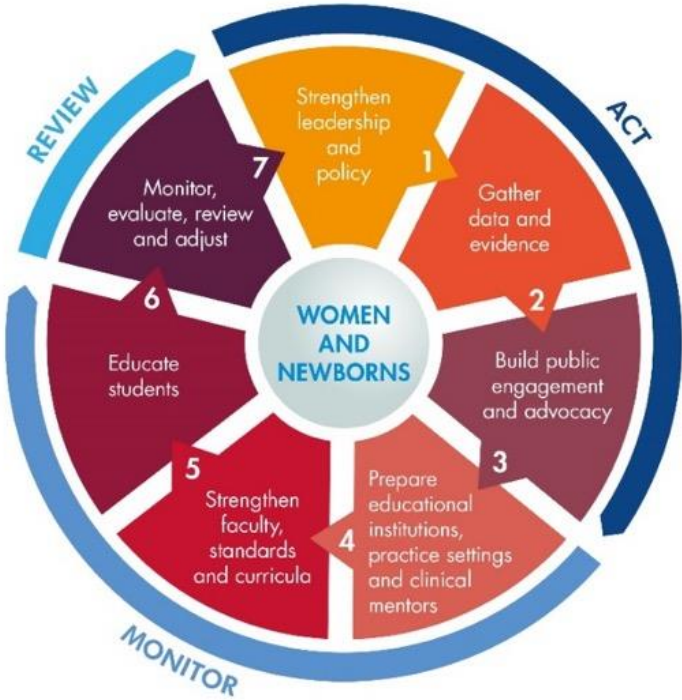




World Health Organization

© 2013 Jhpiego Indonesia, Courtesy of Photoshare

It's time to address the **stark under-investment** in midwifery education to **transform the quality of** maternal and newborn health **#MidwiferyEd4SDGs**



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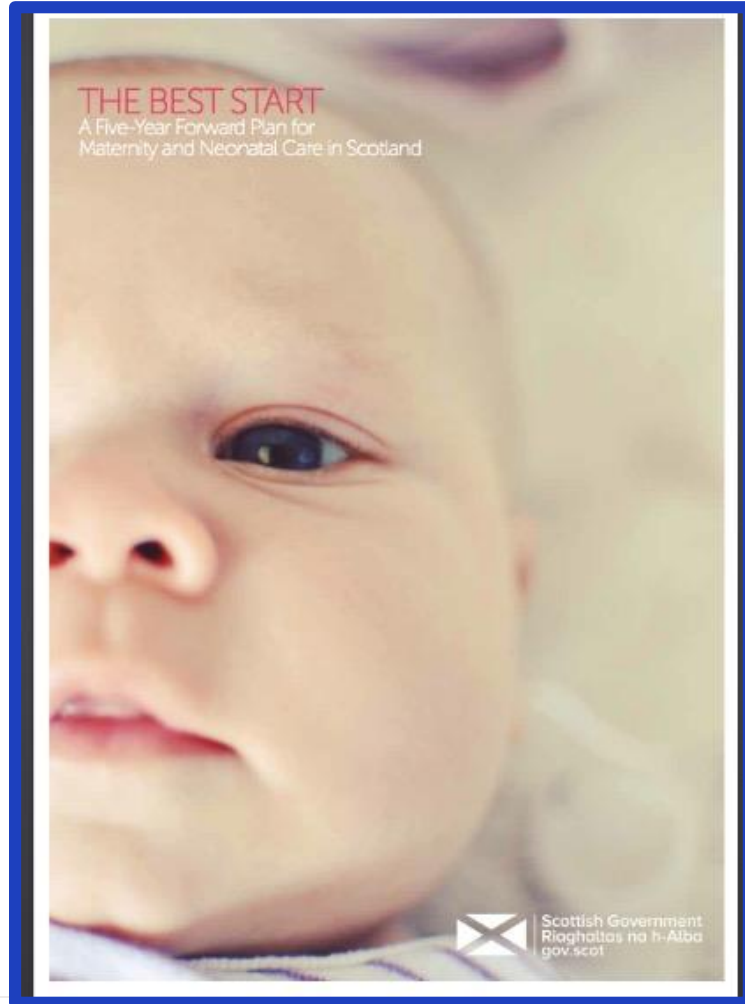




# Scottish Government Review of Maternity and Neonatal Services



## Key recommendations

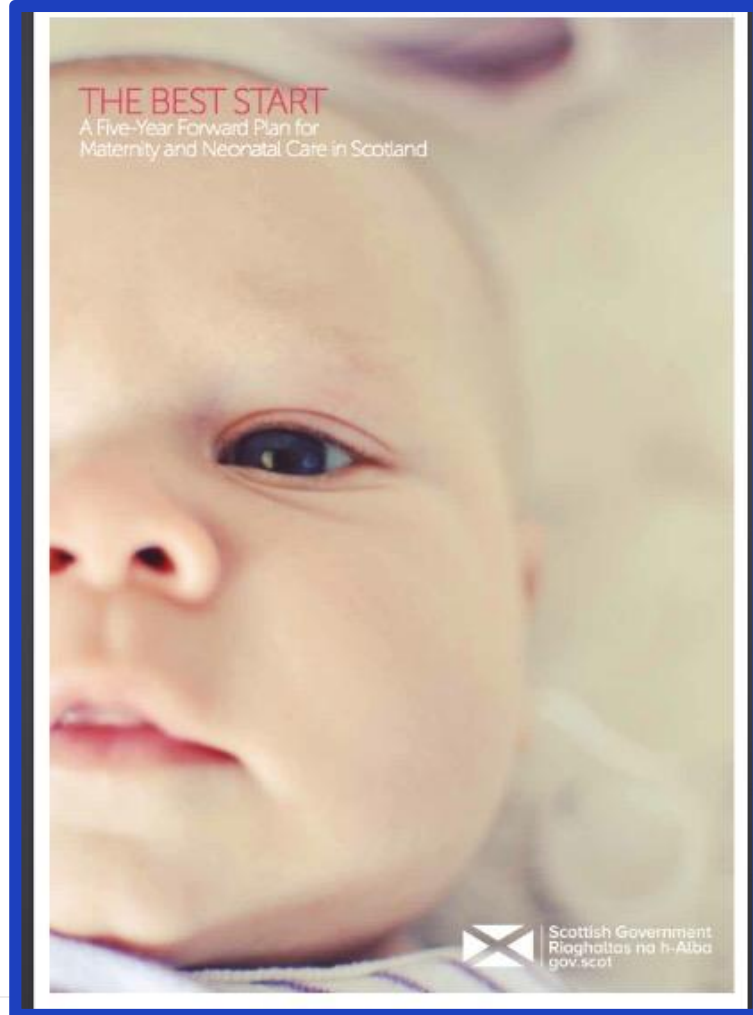


- Real continuity of care and carer across whole maternity journey
- Truly person/family-centred, safe, respectful, compassionate care
- No separation of mother and baby
- Service re-design to ensure optimal outcomes, support normal processes
- Multi-professional working with the midwife as the primary caregiver for all women and babies
- Ensuring equity – services for the most vulnerable

The Best Start 2017: Scottish Government

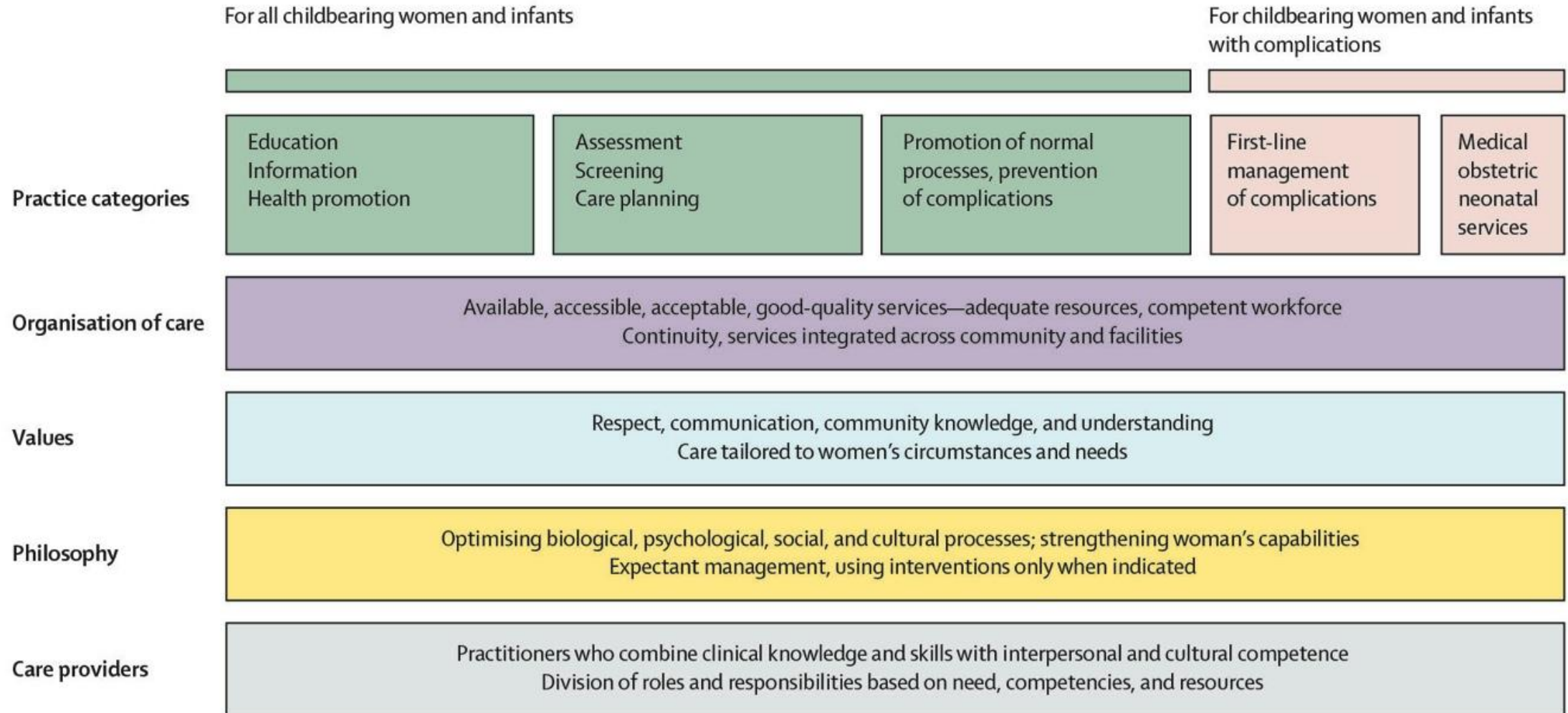
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/best-start-five-year-forward-plan-maternity-neonatal-care-scotland/>

# Scottish Government Review of Maternity and Neonatal Services: what worked?



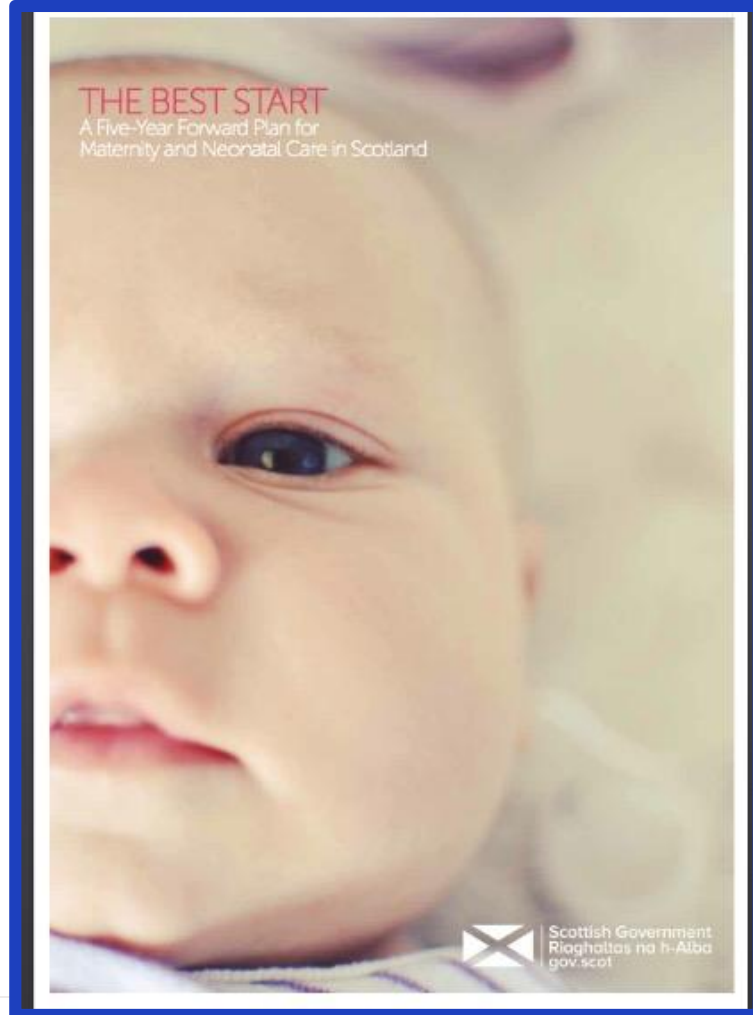
- Focus on women, babies, families
- Evidence reviews +++
- Use of Lancet Series on Midwifery quality framework
- Large-scale engagement and involvement of
  - Women and families, advocacy groups
  - Health professionals and students
- Multi-professional committees with service user/advocacy members
  - Review groups
  - Implementation Board
- Strong committed multi-professional leadership

# Lancet Series on Midwifery Framework for quality maternal and newborn care





# Scottish Government Review of Maternity and Neonatal Services: what worked?



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# **Future midwife:** Transforming midwifery care for everyone

Launched 2020



# New standards for the future midwife



Enabling educators and midwives of the future to provide innovative education and the best and safest care for women and newborn infants



# Transformative change (1)

Focussed on the needs, views, preferences and decisions of women and the needs of newborn infants



# Transformative change (2)

Supporting physical, psychological, social, cultural, and spiritual safety



# Transformative change (3)

Universal care for all plus additional care when needed





# Transformative change (4)

Understanding the impact of pregnancy, labour and birth, postpartum, infant feeding and the early weeks of life on longer term health and wellbeing



# Standards of proficiency for midwives

## Six inter-related domains



# The Future Midwife project – what worked?

- Focus on women, babies, families
- Evidence reviews, evidence-informed
- Use of The Lancet Series on Midwifery definition and quality framework
- Listening to women and families, educators, midwives, students, multi-professional colleagues, managers, policy makers
- Committed and informed cross-sectoral leadership
- Regulator's determination to create radical change to improve quality of care and outcomes



# The Thought Leadership Group



- Experts and representatives from across a broad range of backgrounds, including:
- Midwives, student midwives, advocates, managers, policymakers, educators, researchers, and other health and care professionals
- 10 meetings over more than two years +++

# External engagement (1)



What should the future of midwifery education look like?

Join us for a twitter chat!  
Thursday 25 April  
7.00 - 8.00pm

**NMC** Nursing & Midwifery Council



@nmcnews | #futuremidwife | @councilofdeans



What do midwives of the future need to know to provide the best and safest care?

Get involved #futuremidwife

**NMC** Nursing & Midwifery Council



## External engagement (3)

- 600+ people in all four UK countries involved in **pre-consultation** engagement activities
- 3,000+ people engaged at events or online in **consultation** opportunities
- 1,600 responses to our consultation survey
- More than 1,000 responses from the public



# Critical conditions for positive change



- Evidence – what do women, babies, families, need and want?
- Planning – what outcomes are needed?
- Collaboration, participation, pro-active engagement and consultation
- Focus on, listen to, involve women and families and advocates
- Informed, committed, coordinated leadership
- Monitor, review, revise





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## THANK YOU



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[@maryrenfrew](https://twitter.com/maryrenfrew)

