

**Participant Information Sheet**

Thank you for agreeing to consider participating in this study. This document is designed to provide the information you are likely to need in order to make your final decision about whether you want to take part. If you need any additional information before making your decision, my contact details are included, and I would be very happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Title of Study**

“To what extent do Directors of Midwifery feel able to support the provision of individualised, evidence-based, woman-centred care within the context of the contemporary NHS maternity service?”

**Introduction and purpose of the study**

My name is Sarah Purdy. I am currently undertaking a Doctor of Education degree at the University of Brighton, and I am carrying out this research for my thesis. I am also a Registered Midwife and currently work as an Associate Professor in Midwifery at Kingston University with responsibility for Postgraduate and Workforce Development programmes.

The purpose of this study is to explore the experiences of Directors of Midwifery. In particular I am interested in their perspectives on the professional leader aspect of their role and to what extent they feel the NMC expectations of midwives to provide evidence-based, woman-centred care can be achieved within NHS maternity services.

I hope that my findings will inform my work as a midwife educator and enable me to better support midwives at all stages of their career to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed and flourish as midwives.

I would like to invite you to take part in my research study. Before you decide I would like you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. I will go through the information sheet with you and answer any questions you have. This should take about five minutes. Talk to others about the study if you wish and ask me if there is anything that is not clear. You will be given time to think about whether you wish to take part before making a decision and may take this sheet away with you.

**Why you have been invited to participate**

You have been invited to take part in the study because you are currently employed as a Director of Midwifery. As the purpose of the study is to explore the views of Directors of Midwifery, you meet the entry criteria for the study.

**Do you have to take part?**

You are under no obligation to take part in the study and can choose to withdraw at any time without giving a reason. There will be no negative consequences if you do decide to withdraw from the study.

**What will happen if you take part?**

The study will involve an interview, lasting approximately one hour, but no more than ninety minutes. The interviews will take place via MS Teams and the timing will be arranged for your convenience. The interviews will be video recorded, and these will then be transcribed. The content of the interviews will be used to inform the study and small sections may be quoted directly. However, the recordings and transcripts themselves will not be published or otherwise shared.

**The potential disadvantages or risks of taking part**

Although it is not anticipated that your participation should cause distress, it is possible that recounting events or incidents from your professional life may prove difficult emotionally. It will always be your choice whether to disclose any information and should you become upset during an interview, you will be able to stop if you wish. Information regarding support services such as the Royal College of Midwives, Professional Midwifery Advocates and mental health support organisations will be provided if necessary.

**The potential benefits of taking part**

The study is designed to explore the views of Directors of Midwifery and gain an understanding of how their careers have developed and how they interpret their role within the context of NHS maternity services. It is hoped that this may lead to a greater understanding of the realities of leading maternity services and enable service providers and policy makers to identify and address any barriers to high-quality maternity care that this may reveal. Additionally, I hope that the findings from the study enable me to develop my own practice as a midwifery educator to support midwives in their career development and transition to senior and leadership roles.

**Confidentiality**

Your participation in the study will remain confidential and you will not be personally identifiable from the eventual study report. A pseudonym will be used, and your area of practice will not be specified, as it is not germane to the study.

Access to the interview recordings and transcripts will be limited to myself and my supervisor, and the data will be stored securely, in accordance with the University of Brighton Data Protection Policy. This policy states that data from student research projects should be kept until the student’s award is conferred. This, along with other information relating to research privacy can be accessed via the following link [University of Brighton Research Privacy Notice](https://unibrightonac.sharepoint.com/sites/public/docs/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2Fpublic%2Fdocs%2FLegal%20and%20Governance%2FResearch%5FPrivacy%5FNotice%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2Fpublic%2Fdocs%2FLegal%20and%20Governance&p=true&ga=1)

As a Registered Midwife, I am professionally responsible for my conduct. This also applies to my research practice and includes an obligation to report any concerns about the safety of another professional’s practice which may become apparent. This study is in no way intended to expose any incidents or events which may call participants’ fitness to practice into question and should I consider any part of the interview to be problematic in this regard, I would stop the interview and explain why.

**What happens if you don’t want to carry on with the study?**

You are free to withdraw from the study at any time, without giving a reason for your decision. There will be no negative consequences to you from your decision to withdraw, however, only data identifiable to you may be withdrawn from the study.

**What happens to the results of the project?**

The data you have contributed will be used as part of a research study to be submitted as part fulfilment of my Doctor of Education degree. Content from the study may also be submitted for publication or presented at academic conferences. You will be offered the opportunity to see the final submission and any other publications or presentations associated with it.

**Research funding**

As this research is part of my Doctor of Education degree, there is no funding involved.

**Contact details**

If you need any additional information, or wish to discuss your participation in the study at any time, I can be contacted on the following email address: s.purdy2@brighton.ac.uk

**Who has reviewed the study?**

The study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Brighton Research Ethics Committee.

**What if I have a question or concern?**

If you have any problems or concerns and wish to discuss these with someone independent of the study, please contact the Chair of the Cross School Research Ethics Committee C, Dr Liam Wignall l.wignall@brighton.ac.uk