connecting the future:

empowering student midwifery societies through a national network

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Background

In 2024, student midwives reported disconnection from the midwifery profession, exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Existing societies faced challenges with sustaining engagement and leadership handover, and many students expressed a desire for support in setting up their own midwifery society.

An opportunity to connect existing societies across 60+ midwifery programmes in the United Kingdom (UK) was identified in 2025 by the UK's professional organisation for midwives.

RCM MIDWIFERY SOCIETY NETWORK

Aim

To strengthen student midwife engagement across universities and with their professional association, the Royal College of Midwives (RCM), by establishing a network of midwifery Societies across the UK.

Method:

Led by the RCM, the network was a student-led co-creation through national consultations, resulting in the development of the network providing:

- Accessible resources (e.g. guidance on how to run societies, events and handing over to successive cohorts)
- A simple joining process to the network and interactive map for visibility
- Shared branding to build identity and belonging
- Promotion through social media, educator networks, national outreach and blogs for the International Confederation of Midwives

Impact:

- Over 30 MidSocs joined within the first year, showing rapid national growth. This opened new communication channels with over half of all university programmes in the UK.
- A new student society category at the RCM annual awards
- Delivery of national events, including Student Celebration Day activities, resulting in many more societies joining the network
- High engagement via social media channels and virtual networking
- Increased funding awarded for societies belonging to the network
- Enhanced visibility, collaboration and peer support

Discussion

- The MidSoc network demonstrates the value of peer networks in rebuilding communities and confidence. As a professional association we addressed structural barriers, such as continuity and leadership turnover, and highlighted the importance of:
- Student voice in design
- Simple, accessible infrastructure
- Ongoing engagement (online and in-person)

Conclusion

A rapidly growing, student-driven national network – connecting over 30 societies in one year – has transformed engagement, strengthened professional identity and rebuilt a sense of belonging amongst student midwives.

Student-led networks, supported by simple infrastructure and national collaboration, can create scalable and sustainable impact for the future midwifery workforce

Resources

- RCM MidSoc Network www.rcm.org.uk/students/midwifery-society-network
- ICM Blog 4: 'The Power of Peer Networks' - www.internationalmidwives.org/rcms-strategy-to-unite-student-midwives-the-power-of-peer-networks