



Midwives Celebrate Outstanding Success at National Awards Ceremonies

Three midwives from NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership in won a national award for their work to make emergency maternity care in the community safer.

Sarah Morris, Sarah Hookes, and Jane Storey received the Excellence in Midwifery for Education & Learning sponsored by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) at the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) annual awards in London on 19 May 2023.

RCM's Chief Executive, Gill Walton said: "Improving safety is the number one priority for maternity care and this team have delivered on this in spades. Their work has led to important changes nationally and is right now making a real difference to the care of women and babies right at the frontline. All three have earned the plaudits their work is gaining and richly deserve to be applauded and recognised for it. This award will certainly help to do that, and they are richly deserving recipients of it."

Sarah, Sarah, and Jane developed and implemented, in conjunction with Midwives throughout Wales the Community PROMPT Wales programme. This is an innovative training programme designed to support community midwifery teams to manage childbirth emergencies effectively in community settings with the aim of improving the safety of women giving birth in community settings. Training is also facilitated and attended by paramedics from the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust this building strong relationships between the two professions who work together in the community setting to support women and babies.

Sarah, Sarah, and Jane said, “We are overjoyed to have Community PROMPT Wales recognised in this way and to receive this prestigious award from the RCM is the greatest honour. This programme has changed the landscape of obstetric emergency training and we are proud to have recently worked with the PROMPT Maternity Foundation to develop a similar programme for the UK so midwives, women and babies can benefit from this outside of Wales. We would like to thank NWSSP for supporting this programme, Jonathan Webb, Head of Safety & Learning for his support and encouragement, our wider Welsh Risk Pool team, all those who assisted with the development of the programme and Heads of Midwifery. However, the success of this programme is largely due to our midwifery colleagues who facilitate this training in their local Health Boards, and we want to applaud them for their dedication and support.”

Jonathan Webb, Head of Safety & Learning, Welsh Risk Pool, said: “I am delighted that Sarah Hookes and the team have won the RCM Award for Excellence in Midwifery for Education & Learning. This relates to the excellent work that they have done in designing, in Wales, the Community PROMPT Wales programme.”

“Not only is this a success in Wales but through our collaboration with PROMPT Maternity Foundation, is now available for units throughout the UK. Many congratulations to Sarah, Jane and Sarah, and the whole team.”

Andrea Sutcliffe, Chief Executive and Registrar at the NMC, said: “I’m delighted the NMC has sponsored the RCM award for Excellence in Midwifery for Education & Learning this year and I’m thrilled the team from NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership has won. Improving the safety of maternity care services is an absolute priority and is the central focus of this initiative. The training programme is making a real difference to the lives of women and babies, who are now safer because of it. Huge congratulations to Sarah, Jane, and Sarah – you are a true credit to the midwifery profession.”

Another Success for NHS Wales Midwives

NHS Wales midwives, Sarah Morris and Laura Little, celebrated success at the recent Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Awards Ceremony, which highlights the outstanding achievements of award finalists, including their positive influence on best nursing practice and improving the care given to individuals and communities in Wales.

Sarah is part of the PROMPT (Practical Obstetric Multi-Professional Training) Wales team and Laura is part of the Intrapartum Fetal Surveillance Wales team. These are both Maternity Safety & Learning programmes funded by NWSSP Welsh Risk Pool Services.

Sarah was successful in the Chief Nursing Officer Award category and won her award through making transformational and sustainable improvements to training and development for multi-professional teams both in her national role as PROMPT Wales National Midwife and as Practice Development Midwife in Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board. Sarah was instrumental in ensuring CTMUHB achieved the PROMPT Wales Standard of 95% PROMPT compliance in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Sarah ensures that evidence from incidents and governance reviews are triangulated and used to provide learning opportunities within PROMPT Wales training. She has identified practical

system improvements in clinical environments, such as wall flipcharts to display algorithms ensuring they are easily accessible in an emergency.

Sarah reviewed local evidence around shoulder dystocia detection and demonstrated how robust training and scrutiny of data is leading to better services for women, pregnant and birthing people, and their families.

Sarah codeveloped Community PROMPT Wales and supported its implementation into community midwifery services in Wales. Sarah has encouraged the standardisation of equipment carried by community midwives. Welsh Ambulance Service Trust collaboration has improved through this programme, with paramedic attendance and a paramedic faculty.

Sarah said; "I am truly honoured to have been shortlisted and awarded the Chief Nursing Officer Award 2023. This is an incredible achievement and I have so many colleagues to thank and to be grateful to, both at Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board and Welsh Risk Pool Services."

Laura was presented the RCN Runner Up Award for Supporting Education & Learning in Practice and was the first fetal wellbeing and surveillance specialist midwife in Wales at CTMUHB. Laura has recently joined the IFS Wales team at the Welsh Risk Pool and is involved in the development of a brand new programme of education and training which is to be implemented across NHS Wales later this year.



Among many innovations in her role at CTMUHB, Laura has co-ordinated and organised the training and implementation of a new system of Cardiotocography (baby heartbeat) monitors and developed a training group for qualified maternity staff.

She also co-founded and is chair of the Fetal Monitoring Network Group which includes representation from all health boards in Wales.

She has been instrumental in introducing physiological interpretation of fetal monitoring into the Health Board, devising, and adapting a new interpretation tool to enable the transition to a fully physiological approach. She has collaborated with each obstetric unit to revise reflection meetings to adapt to the challenges from the pandemic.

Laura's work has received national recognition by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) and British Medical Journal, for developing a virtual platform to facilitate reflective learning.

Laura said; "It's a real privilege to have been shortlisted for the award. To receive such recognition for all the work that has been undertaken not just by myself but the wider team, is hugely important in achieving our common goal to continuously strive to provide the best possible care for all those families in our care."

Sarah Hookes, Assistant Head of Safety & Learning, Welsh Risk Pool Services, said; "Both Jonathan Webb, Head of Safety & Learning, Welsh Risk Pool Services, and I are extremely proud of Sarah and Laura on their respective prestigious awards. Both are very deserving, and we are delighted that their commitment to NHS Wales maternity services has been recognised in this way. We are pleased to have them in the Welsh Risk Pool's Maternity Safety & Learning Team."