

Over the last year we have set up a small core team of midwives on the central delivery suite (CDS) and given them all additional training in providing higher levels of care.

The purpose of this is to equip the team with the skills to competently provide increased levels of care on the CDS, reduce our transfers to critical care, and reduce the rates of separation of mums and babies as a result of transfer.

We set up a multidisciplinary study day and followed this up with a day working in critical care to consolidate their new skills along with a competency document they are expected to complete.

Going forwards, we have now joined forces with SHIPP (Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Poole) to provide regular training days in order to expand the initial team of 10. We will continue to plan and implement yearly update days, yearly MILS training and a yearly consolidation day in critical care for all team members.

So far we have had excellent results. Considering most midwives are now direct entry trained, it was imperative that we invested in the development of these enthusiastic midwives and is fantastic that we have significantly reduced our critical care admissions thus improving the service to women and their families, keeping them together whilst still receiving excellent individualised care in the delivery suite one high dependency care (HDU).

We currently ensure one HDU trained midwife is on duty per shift and have a further seven midwives who will be trained up and joining the team by the end of this year.

I am extremely grateful to the multidisciplinary team who have aided their learning and the cross site working with critical care who have kindly welcomed our staff.

We have physically revamped our HDU with thanks to some, very brave, staff jumping out of aeroplanes and with the financial backing of the Trust. We have rewritten our SBAR handover sheets and developed a patient information leaflet as attached which also directs them to a birth afterthoughts/PN clinic. We are also currently developing our own maternity HDU charts to ensure monitoring is of the highest standard.

I am incredibly proud of the changes we have made in order to improve patient experience.

Abbie Roberts
Delivery suite clinical lead midwife.
Maternity HDU lead.