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Community Antel Midwifery Services

Community Antel midwifery services, is an essential role assisting maternal and fetal by supporting women with continuous, accessible care before and after pregnancy. This essay will investigate the origin of the service, and explore historical content that shapes its development, while also critically evaluating how the service functions today, We will also discuss the significance of in enhancing the quality of life of service users.

Community Antel Midwifery Services were introduced to provide pregnant women care within their local community, The origin of the service is closely linked to the evolution of midwifery and why the service was needed. The service originated from early 1900s, to reduce a significant number of women passing during childbirth, In the past child births were assisted by local women who learned through experience not training. The first Antel midwifery clinic was opened in Edinburgh 1915.

<https://pure.plymouth.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/38389038/414459.pdf>

In 1948 midwives started to work for the NHS, but remained working the same way they did before, they continued to care for women before childbirth and after childbirth with visiting home and clinics, while working alongside doctors and hospitals

<https://www.aims.org.uk/journal/item/history-district-midwifery?>

In 1974, District midwives who worked locally visiting homes while also visiting clinics decided to stop working for their local councils and became a full part of the NHS clinics. This meant more births happened in hospital and less care was given in the community.

Today this service focuses on monitoring maternal and fetal health, while also providing screenings, and giving advice on nutrition, exercise, and mental health. Following that up with health education informing women how to breast feed, labour and parenting. Modern Midwives now actively perform risk assessments while also being able to identify complications early and directing women to specialist care when needed. Midwives now provide postnatal follow up, to establish that both baby and mother

remain healthy after birth and offering support for mental health, breastfeeding, mental health and other postpartum needs.

Community antenatal midwifery services in the UK continue to be guided by best-practice framework. As today Community midwives collaborate with GPs, health visitors, obstetricians, and social services

Ensures holistic care addressing medical, social, and psychological needs. They also promote, continuity of carer, woman-centred care, evidence-based practice, and health-inequality reduction, although implementation varies due to workforce and system pressures. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/QS22/chapter/quality-statement-3-continuity-of-carer?>

However current pressures- include staff shortages, inconsistent continuity of care implementation, and variability in service quality — indicate that while the principles of high-quality community antenatal care are widely accepted, delivery is not yet consistent nationwide. Midwife shortages lead to increased caseloads per midwives, Reducing the ability to provide continuity of carer. Due to this delivery remains variable and not all women benefit equally from these. models.

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/publications/major-report/state-care/2024-2025/focus/maternity?>

Enhancing the quality of services users is helping pregnant women live well while also being pregnant, it's not just about helping them medically it's also supporting physical and mental health, emotional wellbeing and a sense of control while being pregnant, This is significance because pregnancy can bring social pressures, anxiety stress etc, pregnancy can also have a drastic change in lifestyle which is a unusual feeling for expectant mothers. Community antenatal midwives support women allowing them to understand women's daily life. Service users find this helping them with confidence, improvement before and after birth and emotional wellbeing, Key parts of quality of life. Pregnancy is not only a physiological process but also a profound social, emotional, and psychological experience. Community-based antenatal care places the midwife in a unique position to deliver holistic, woman-centred care, directly influencing maternal and fetal outcomes while supporting overall wellbeing.

Community antenatal midwives often provide continuity of carer, this builds up trust, emotional safety, better communication as the midwife caring for the woman learns needs, history and preferences. This improves quality of life as women feel safe, supported and valued. These positive experiences contribute to better wellbeing and quality of life during pregnancy and after birth.

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/midwife-continuity-of-care-model-linked-to-positive-experiences-during-pregnancy?utm>