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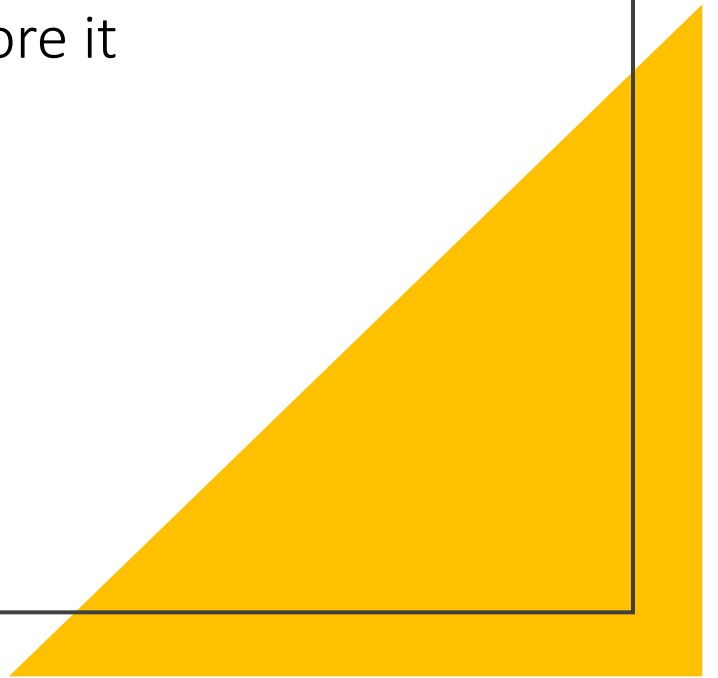
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Shortage of midwives

According to The Royal college midwives(RCM) 2021, the number of midwives drops by 1400 in two months. Therefore it causes several problems for example

- Home birth services being shut down
- Labour ward at full capacity
- Leaving pregnant women in the limbo



The reason for staff shortage

The reason behind staff shortage are some midwives are felt unsafe because of Covid 19; The others said they worked unpaid beyond their contracted hours. And they are not satisfied with the quality of care they can provide; therefore, they leave their job.

(The Guardian 2022)



The effect on service users

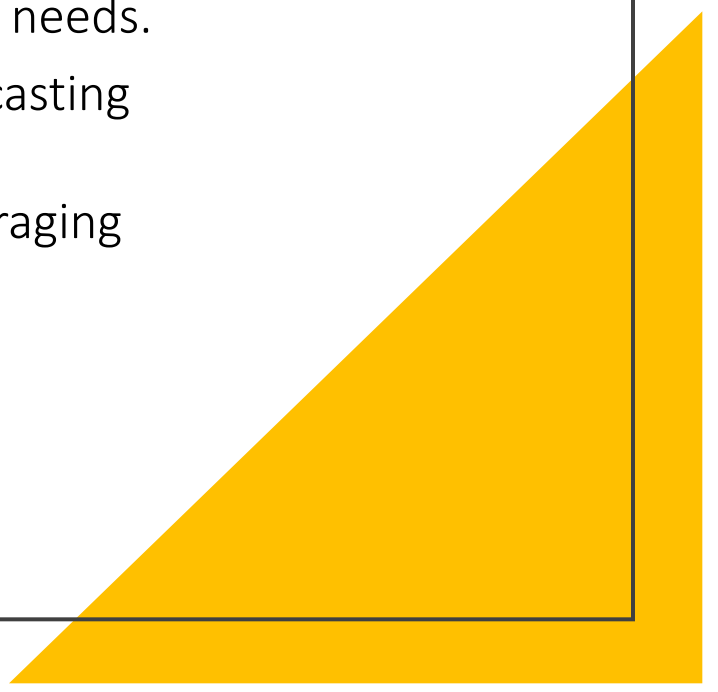
Shortage continues to affect all parts of the maternity service. According to the National Childbirth Trust (2021), 88% of women who have never seen a midwife caring for them during labour and delivery before giving birth are more likely to have mental and emotional difficulty throughout pregnancy and childbirth. Also, it puts women and their babies at higher risk of death.

Solutions

- Making sure there are enough midwives staff, with the right skills, in the right place at the right time to care for patients based on population needs.
- By giving midwives work schedules and rotas based on realistic forecasting that supports safe shift –swapping to take a break.
- Employers need to understand the challenges midwives face, encouraging midwives with positive feedback and constructive criticism without worsening the pressure.

(Nursing and Midwives council 2022)

(Malala and Lumadi 2019)



Conclusion

- <https://youtu.be/PRP1OkdnDQE>

Recommendations

- Proved personal protective equipment that they can feel safe enough to do their job properly.
- Creating opportunities for midwives to express their feelings and receive management support.

(Malala and Lumadi 2019)

Reference

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