



## Can we improve NHS care for mothers and babies?

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# Can we improve NHS care for mothers and babies?



The NHS started the Enhanced Midwifery Continuity of Carer (eMCoC) pilot in January 2023.

It funded a small trial to test a new service aimed at improving NHS care for mothers and babies, particularly in the poorest parts of England.



NHS England chose **58** local midwifery teams to take part in the pilot.

The programme provided extra funding to midwifery teams to hire more support staff.

The programme encouraged teams to use the extra funding flexibly to meet local needs.



## Teams hired support staff to help midwives with:

Admin tasks, including organising appointments



Basic health checks and managing test results



Offering wellbeing advice and supporting breastfeeding

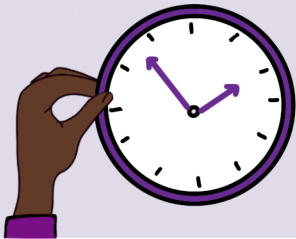


Connecting mothers to other services.



## What went well

Midwives said they had more time to focus on caring for women and babies.



The extra staff meant midwives could give women and families more personalised care.



Women felt well-supported and appreciated the personal care they received.



They valued practical advice and felt the team truly knew and cared about them.



## Challenges

Most of the 58 teams couldn't fully start the service during the pilot period because:

NHS Trusts faced delays in receiving the funding.



Ongoing staff shortages made it hard to set up midwifery teams that aimed to provide continuity when caring for women.



Some teams struggled to hire the extra staff they needed.



## Future research

More research is needed to see if adding support staff improves healthcare for women and babies.



Further research is needed to see whether this type of care improves women's or babies' health.

