

Raising the research profile; an innovative approach to midwifery research in Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Description

The Strategic Vision for Maternity Services in Wales (Welsh Government 2011) recognises engagement in research as pivotal in providing the best care for women and families. Over the past two years, a midwifery research team has been established in ABUHB. The team has worked with passion and enthusiasm to substantially increase the number of active studies and service improvement projects. Furthermore, the team has endeavoured to ensure that all maternity staff are aware of the importance of research and have opportunities to engage in ongoing CPD and GCP training.

Coordinate and facilitate research studies and service improvement projects with a view to improving patient care and satisfaction

Facilitate events to feedback results of studies to patients

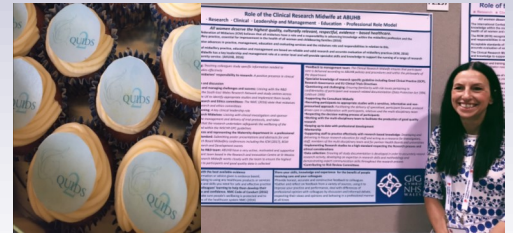
Establish links with external organisations and public bodies

Strong presence in the clinical area to demonstrate transformational leadership and to educate and empower staff regarding the importance of research in midwifery

Role of the midwifery research team

Facilitate ongoing CPD, and expand research portfolio

Represent ABUHB at both national and international conferences and events, submitting abstracts and posters on the work of the team and other projects



Methods

A strong presence in the clinical area has enabled the education of maternity staff on the role of research, resulting in empowerment and increased engagement. Publishing original research and presenting at conferences has raised the team's profile. Establishing links with Welsh government, local universities, the RCM, research midwives across the UK and other public bodies has also increased the visibility and success of the team.

Midwifery Society

Members of the research team have been pivotal in the formation of the ABUHB midwifery society, which organises educational events to share current research and best practice to improve patient care.



Achievements

Since 2017 the team have presented at national and international events including Toronto, Krakow, Eindhoven, Edinburgh, Birmingham, Manchester, Cardiff and Newport. Additional successes include multiple abstracts accepted for publication in professional journals, being shortlisted for the CNO Betsi Cadwaladr scholarship award and establishing an all Wales research midwife group. Awards include the South Wales Research Impact Award, most improved C-Stich recruiter and best recruiter for QUIDS2 at NHH.



Results and outcomes

The above activities have resulted in an increased profile for the ABUHB midwifery research team, a positive patient view of research activity, and increased staff and student engagement in research. The team have worked hard to increase its presence, visibility and portfolio, with the ultimate aim of engaging maternity staff and improving patient care and satisfaction.

References

Welsh Government (2011) *A Strategic Vision for Maternity Services in Wales*. Available at: <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/documents/A%20Strategic%20Vision%20for%20Maternity%20Services%20in%20Wales%20-%20September%202011.pdf>.