

Newsletter 34 - January 2026

Winter Newsletter

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter. We hope you enjoyed some time off over the festive period. Wishing you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2026!

In this newsletter we've got: a thank you to our reporters, with a spotlight on a unit establishing development opportunities; an update of progress so far with the Induction of Labour Study, including units that are yet to report and issues that have been reported to us; and information about our Study Day on 5th May, including how you can get involved and a reminder about our impact survey.

UKMidSS Stars

As ever, a huge thank you to our reporters for the time and effort you dedicate to UKMidSS. We know that you are overstretched with more being asked of you than ever before. We appreciate that your contributions to UKMidSS are another item on the never-ending 'to-do' list but we want to reiterate how vital this project is and the positive change that happens as a result of our findings. This is a team effort and would not be possible without you. Thank you.

In this newsletter, special mentions for sterling work with large amounts of data entry go to:

- **Kerry Martin** from the **Midwifery Led Unit** at **New Cross Hospital**
- **Lorraine Thompson** from the **Truro Birth Centre** at the **Royal Cornwall Hospital**
- **Cristina Bencivenga** from the **Home from Home Birth Centre** at **St Thomas' Hospital**

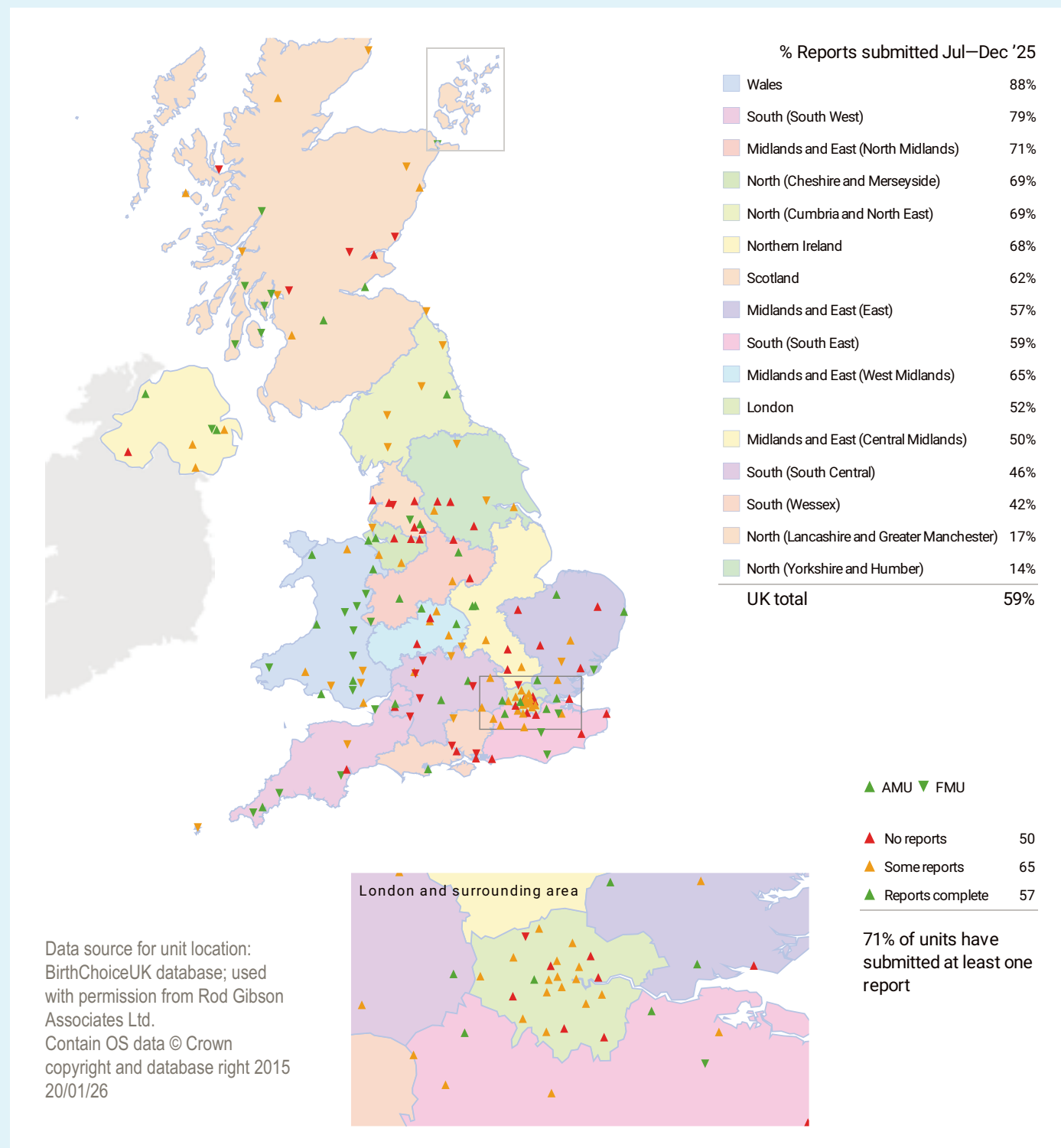
Your chocolates should arrive soon!



We were over the moon to hear from Natalie, based at The Jessop Wing in Sheffield, that they have established a development opportunity for a midwife in their unit to become a reporter, supported by an experienced midwife, with a number of hours allocated for this a month. This is a great idea! Thanks to everyone involved and we look forward to hearing how this goes.

Induction of Labour Study

We are now halfway through the data collection period for the Induction of Labour (IOL) Study - time has flown by! As a reminder, this study is investigating outcomes for women admitted to midwifery units for labour care following a component of induction.



The map shows the reporting progress so far. As you can see, 71% of units have submitted at least one report which is an improvement from the last newsletter! We're aware that some reporters are experiencing a delay in obtaining figures and are a month or so behind in reporting. If you have any trouble collecting or entering the information, please reach out and we will be more than happy to help.

As always, we're striving to achieve 100% of units submitting a report each month to ensure we generate high quality results. Units who have not yet reported to this study are listed below. Tabitha is in the process of contacting these units – please look out for any communication. If you work at one of these sites, please get in touch. It may be that we are struggling to re-establish communication and you may be the missing link!

Induction of Labour Study continued...

Acorn Birth Centre, Tameside General Hospital	Singleton Midwife-led Unit, William Harvey Hospital, Ashford
Arbroath Community Maternity Unit, Arbroath Infirmary	St Mary's, Wythenshawe and the Manchester Birth Centre
Bluebell Birth Centre, North Manchester General Hospital	St Peter's Midwife Led Unit, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital
Bradford Birth Centre, Bradford Royal Infirmary	Stockport Birth Centre, Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport
Broadlands Birth Centre, Princess Anne Hospital, Southampton	Stroud Maternity Unit, Stroud Maternity Hospital
Burnley Birth Centre, Burnley General Hospital	The Acorn Suite, Bedford Hospital
Cheltenham Aveta Birth Centre, Cheltenham General Hospital	The Birth Centre, Croydon University Hospital
Chichester Birth Centre, St Richard's Hospital, Chichester	The Exeter Low Risk Birth Unit, Royal Devon and Exeter Wonford Hospital
Chippenham Birth Centre, Chippenham Community Hospital	The Heath Birth Centre, Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead
Chorley Birth Centre, Chorley and South Ribble Hospital	The Juno Suite, Colchester General Hospital
Community Maternity Unit, Mackinnon Memorial Hospital, Skye	The Lilac Birth Centre, Whipps Cross University Hospital, Leytonstone
Community Maternity Unit, Perth Royal Infirmary	The Mary Rose Birth Centre, Queen Alexandra Hospital
Dundee Midwifery unit, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee	The Midwife Led Birthing Unit, Peterborough City Hospital
Edgware Birth Centre, Edgware Community Hospital	The Midwife Led Unit, Newham Hospital
Frome Birth Centre, Frome Community Hospital	The Midwife Led Unit, Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Jessop Wing
Fylde Coast Birth Centre, Victoria Hospital, Blackpool	The Midwifery Led Birthing Unit, Luton & Dunstable Hospital
Lotus Midwifery Unit, Leeds General Infirmary	The Midwifery Led Unit, South West Acute Hospital
Lunar Birth Centre, West Middlesex University Hospital, Isleworth	The Midwifery Led Unit, St Michael's Hospital, Bristol
Meadow Birth Centre, Worcestershire Royal Hospital	The Midwifery-Led Birthing Unit, Norfolk And Norwich University Hospital
New Beginnings, Southend Hospital	The Nest, Doncaster and Bassetlaw teaching hospital
New Forest Birth Centre, Ashurst Hospital	The Nest, Warrington Hospital
Portsmouth Maternity Centre, St Mary's Community Health Campus	The Oasis Birthing Centre, Princess Royal University Hospital, Orpington
Preston Birth Centre, Royal Preston Hospital	The Serenity Birth Centre, Midland Metropolitan University Hospital
Rosie Birth Centre, The Rosie Hospital	Vale of Leven Community Maternity Unit, Vale of Leven Hospital, Alexandria
Sanctuary Birth Centre, Nottingham University Hospital QMC Campus	Wallingford Community Midwifery-led Unit, (St George's Ward) Wallingford Community Hospital

Even if your unit does not routinely admit women following IOL, please still complete the monthly report by entering the number of admissions and births in your unit along with a '0' for the number of cases. This information is essential to ensure our results are accurate and represent practice across the UK.



Several reporters have highlighted an issue with the postcode entry and associated children in low-income families measure on the data collection form. We are aware of this and working to resolve it. We have also been informed that some reporters are being reminded to complete control forms that are unnecessary. Thank you for flagging this problem. This has now been resolved. Thank you for bearing with us while we address these issues!

The UKMidSS Study Day 2026

As announced in the previous newsletter, the next UKMidSS Study Day will take place on **Tuesday 5th May 2026** at 'the studio' in Birmingham. We will be sending out invites shortly so look out for our email.

GET INVOLVED

The day will be a celebration of all that we have achieved together over the last 10 years. To reflect this, we will be asking UKMidSS reporters to submit abstracts for oral or poster presentations on topics relevant to UKMidSS or midwifery units in general. We will be sharing further details shortly, but in the meantime have a think about whether you've got something you'd like to present.

Impact Survey reminder



We will also be presenting the findings from the UKMidSS Impact Survey we are currently running. Reporters will have received an email directly from UKMidSS inviting them to take part. Consultant midwives will have received

an email from other contacts in their networks. If you haven't already done so, please take just a few minutes to complete this survey. Each response tells us more about how findings from UKMidSS influences midwifery care in units at a local level – information we can't find out in any other way.



CPD Certificates



If you need a CPD certificate for your revalidation, please get in touch! Being a UKMidSS reporter means that you are contributing to national audit and research. You can drop us an email here: ukmidss@npeu.ox.ac.uk



Update Details

Has your unit closed (either temporarily or permanently)? Is one of your reporters leaving? Is the lead midwife for the MLU going on maternity leave? Is your Head of Midwifery taking a sabbatical? If yes, please do let us know. We rely on updated contact details to communicate news as well as collecting data for our studies.

@NPEU_UKMidSS 01865 617823 ukmidss@npeu.ox.ac.uk



Royal College
of Midwives

