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Midwifery education and practice in England: facing the challenges

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Purpose

To discuss the contemporary social context and the policy drivers that affect childbirth and contemporary maternity services.
It is the right of every woman to the best possible health care during pregnancy and childbirth.
Policy Context: England
We want the principle of ‘shared decision making’ to become the norm: ‘no decision about me without me’

(Department of Health 2010: 13)
Social context

Demand

Supply
Facing the challenge: Education

- Preparing students of midwifery for the demands of practice and upon qualification are fit for practice
- Educating sufficient numbers of midwives
- Pressures on placements and mentors
- Curriculum delivery and approaches to teaching and learning
- Pressures on university lecturers
- Sufficient numbers of lecturers
## Implications for the future?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Practice</th>
<th>Maternity services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Availability of and support in placements</td>
<td>Pressures continuing</td>
<td>Continuing reconfiguration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numbers of lecturers</td>
<td>Increasing complexity of care</td>
<td>Number of midwives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of revalidation</td>
<td>Clinical Leadership</td>
<td>Polarisation of and diversification of services</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Resilience of midwives</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
• Education
  Competent midwives

• Practice
  Safety and high quality

• Maternity services
  Responsiveness to women’s needs
Conclusion

- Women and their families get the world class service
- Responsive midwifery education
- Partnership working