Who would be a midwife?

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Student Midwives

• I am a student midwife, due to qualify in September. I feel passionate about offering women choice, and giving women support through genuine continuity of care. I want to be the best midwife I can be.....

• Near qualification and desperate to provide one to one care, midwifery led care!
Student Midwives

• ‘I am a student nearing the end of my second year and as it stands I find it impossible to envisage working within the NHS model since to me the actual midwifery is limited. At present I am uncertain whether to continue my studies. I love midwifery but the politics, policies and continual effort to fight the corner of women who do not fit the profile of "normal" in these policies is too much’.
‘As a third year student midwife the fast approach of my qualification is somewhat daunting rather than exciting as I would have hoped. Having had placements in a large high risk unit throughout my training the attitudes of mentoring midwives have been disappointingly institutionalised’
Qualified Midwives

• ‘I'm fed up with looking after endless women who I haven't met before. trying to establish what they have been told, how anxious they are etc etc’.

• I have been working on a consultant led unit which I do not like at all. I am worried that the hospital is just going to grind away my enthusiasm for midwifery as I already dread going to work!
Antenatally women are ‘processed’ on a conveyor belt system where each woman is ‘squeezed’ into the one size fits all system of care.

I spend more of my time ....filling in paperwork, answering the phone, trying to sort out cover for the next shift (due to staff shortages) and dealing with petty work politics than I do with the women in my care.
Qualified Midwives

• ‘Over stretched NHS maternity services often mean that prioritisation leads to a service which provides only minimum care. Local policies are also often very restricting and too rigidly applied without any individualisation of care. As a midwife this is very frustrating and I believe women should have a choice in the care they receive’.
Qualified Midwives

• Everything I do within the NHS is ‘guidelined’ to such a degree that autonomy is no longer there, the culture of ‘bullying’ to conform is rife both for the women and the midwives

• Pregnancy is no longer a wonderful journey in the transition to parenthood but an obstacle course to be traversed. Birth, the most intimate of life experiences now takes place in sterility and in the presence of strangers.
Qualified Midwives

• I am a qualified (but not currently practicing) midwife, one of the thousands who has left the NHS; mainly due to lack of satisfaction, for example, not being able to give one-to-one care and support to a woman during her pregnancy and labour (a factor known to improve maternal and neonatal outcomes).

• The NHS is no longer the National Health Service but is now the National Health System and I must leave for my own sanity.’
‘Avoid regulating any process that might have to be varied to be effective in different circumstances’

Leading Change in Health and Social Care by Vivien Martin  (Page126)
I have been a qualified midwife for over 3 years, my heart lies in community midwifery and I am a strong advocate of home birth for low risk women. Unfortunately I am unable to be the midwife I want to be working in the way I am at the moment. Time pressures and insufficient midwives make working in the hospital stressful and unfulfilling. I would love to work in my local community and Neighbourhood Midwives sounds perfect for me. Really hope it will be in my area before too long!
I am a hospital based midwife and have seven years post grad experience. I am desperate to give women the care that they deserve, not based around policy and procedure but around their individual needs, previous experiences and family needs. I would love to hear more about what you offer to the women in your care and see if we share the same ethos.
Could this be the future?

Midwives you know and trust

www.neighbourhoodmidwives.org.uk