

NEW MATERNITY TRAINING GUIDANCE WILL HELP SAVE LIVES BUT IT MUST BE IMPLEMENTED FULLY

Baby Lifeline's response to Saving Babies' Lives Version Two: A Care Bundle for reducing Perinatal Mortality

Coventry, 15th March 2019 - [Baby Lifeline](#) welcomes today's release of NHS England's newly expanded guidance, *Saving Babies' Lives Version Two: A Care Bundle for Reducing Perinatal Mortality (SBLCBv2)*. However, it is essential that all NHS trusts are now supported to provide the full training bundle to all maternity professionals as quickly as possible.

The original *Saving Babies' Lives* care bundle was launched in March 2016. In November 2018, Baby Lifeline released its [Mind the Gap](#) report, which investigated the provision of ongoing training for maternity staff throughout the UK over the 2017/18 financial year. The data came from Freedom of Information requests to every NHS Trust, so the research was based on training that actually happened, not trusts' plans.

The report showed that less than 10% of NHS trusts in England provided all the staff training necessary to implement the full *Saving Babies' Lives Care Bundle*. NHS trusts identified issues with staffing and lack of funding as the biggest barriers to providing up-to-date training for professionals.

Judy Ledger, CEO of Baby Lifeline, said, "It is absolutely essential that, this time, every maternity unit in the country is supported to ensure its staff are fully trained to implement the live-saving interventions in this newest version of the *Saving Babies' Lives Care Bundle*."

"The only way the government can achieve the Maternity Safety Ambition by 2025, as planned, is to make sure there is continued investment in ongoing training for our maternity professionals. There is no other way of halving the rates of stillbirths, neonatal and maternal deaths, brain injuries that occur during or soon after birth, and reducing the rates of preterm birth."

"A single maternity-based clinical negligence claim, settled in October 2018, cost the NHS £37 million. In 2017/18, over £2 billion was reserved by the NHS for maternity clinical negligence claims. It will only cost around £5 million to provide the appropriate training each year, saving the NHS money, which is desperately needed elsewhere and, more importantly, saving babies' lives."

Baby Lifeline welcomes *SBLCBv2's* widening focus to reduce the numbers of babies dying before, during, and just after birth, as well as the addition of guidance on reducing preterm birth. This addition brings the bundle in line with the latest evidence, and the updated government ambition to halve the number of stillbirths and reduce the number of babies who are born preterm from 8% to 6%, by 2025.

Baby Lifeline is a national charity with a proven track record of delivering high quality, expert-led training for maternity healthcare professionals. Its training programmes support and anticipate the implementation of national guidelines for improving maternity care. Several of its training programmes already support the recommendations of SBLCBv2. In particular, Baby Lifeline's *Implementing Saving Babies' Lives* training programme discusses the latest evidence to help professionals identify and care for babies at risk of preterm birth, stillbirth, and growth problems in the womb. It has been developed and delivered by some of the same national experts who lead the development of *SBLCBv2*.

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About Baby Lifeline Registered Charity: 1006457

Baby Lifeline is a unique national charity supporting the care of pregnant women and new-born babies across the UK and worldwide. It raises funds to purchase much-needed maternity equipment and is one of the leading providers of training to the medical and legal professions. It has attracted the support of leading health figures who sit on the charity's board, and A-list celebrities as patrons, including Dame Judi Dench and David Tennant.

www.babylifeline.org.uk