

Press release

“Fantastic” donation set to help unborn babies

Mums-to-be having their babies at Ipswich Hospital are set to benefit after a national charity donated six special heartbeat monitors to the maternity unit.

The handheld machines, called doppler fetal monitors, are used to detect the baby’s heartbeat during ante-natal appointments and throughout labour, allowing midwives to take action quickly if they notice any abnormalities.

They have been given to the hospital by Baby Lifeline, which is a nationwide charity which raises money for maternity equipment as well as providing training for healthcare professionals.

Alison Littler, head of midwifery at the hospital, said: “We are very grateful to Baby Lifeline for this fantastic donation. A doppler is a vital piece of equipment which is used during every single pregnancy. Each of our community midwives carries a machine, and we also have them in every delivery room and operating theatre.

“The new machines will be used alongside our existing dopplers to help us monitor the heart rate and health of thousands of unborn babies every single year.”

Judy Ledger, founder and CEO of Baby Lifeline, said: “We were delighted when funds were received by Baby Lifeline to provide six fetal dopplers for use in Ipswich Hospital’s maternity unit.

“We have worked with its health professionals for many years delivering specialist training for maternity health care professionals and providing maternal and neonatal equipment.

“The professionals we meet and support are wonderfully caring and so lovely to work with, and with still more monitoring items on the wish list - we are committed to support further!”

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Note to editors: A photograph is attached showing expectant mum Lisa Elmer with maternity matron Sarah Watson (left), lead midwife (antenatal clinic) Victoria Rothwell and head of midwifery, Alison Littler (right). Please credit Chris Brammer.