

BABY LIFELINE WELCOMES MANDATORY BABY HEART MONITOR TRAINING IN SCOTLAND

Birmingham, 9th January 2019 – Baby Lifeline welcomes the fact that regular training in properly monitoring baby heart rates during labour is to be made mandatory for obstetricians and midwives in Scotland.

Judy Ledger, Founder and CEO of [Baby Lifeline](#) said, “It is great news that it will be mandatory for obstetricians and midwives in Scotland to have regular training in properly monitoring baby heart rates during labour. It is definitely a step in the right direction.

“Scotland has already committed to reduce its stillbirth rates through the Scottish Stillbirth Working Group. The only way to continue to build on the improvements, and meet the Scottish Ambition to achieve a further 20% reduction by 2020, is by providing the right on-going training for maternity healthcare professionals.”

“Our [Mind the Gap](#) report, which we published in November 2018, examined the training NHS Trusts actually deliver. We found that fewer than 10% of NHS Trusts in England were delivering the full Saving Babies Lives care bundle, which was designed specifically to meet the Government’s 2025 target. While the Saving Babies Lives care bundle has only been rolled out in England, Mind the Gap showed that none of NHS Scotland’s 14 Health Boards provided all training components outlined.

“The bundle has been shown to be effective at reducing stillbirths and we recommend that all trusts across the whole of the UK adopt it in its entirety.

“Aside from the human cost, which can be incredibly high for parents and healthcare professionals alike, it’s a very simple financial equation. It will cost around £2.5 million a year to provide the right level of training across the country. In contrast, a single maternity-based litigation claim, settled in October 2018, cost the NHS £37 million.

“More training means better outcomes, less need for litigation and therefore significant savings for the NHS.”

Professor James Walker, Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at St James University Hospital, Leeds and Clinical Director of Maternity Investigations at the Healthcare Safety

Investigation Branch, is the Chair of Baby Lifeline’s Multi-Professional Advisory Panel. He said, “Baby Lifeline welcomes the news that mandatory training in foetal heart monitoring and obstetric emergencies has been introduced for all obstetricians and midwives in Scotland. This is an important step towards the reduction of the death and damage to babies that occurs too frequently in maternity care.

“Baby Lifeline has found that although doctors and midwives want to be trained in these areas, lack of time and resources often prevent them from doing so. Making the training mandatory means that the necessary opportunities must be provided to enable their staff to achieve their training.

“Baby Lifeline, as a provider of this training, would welcome the opportunity to partner with the health providers in Scotland to achieve these ambitious and welcome aims. We hope that the health services in the rest of the United Kingdom follows Scotland's initiatives.”

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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.