



Bags ... in hit show

# NHS kits copy TV Midwife

By **SARAH RIDLEY**

PROPS from *Call the Midwife* have inspired the NHS to introduce home birth kits.

Characters in the BBC series were given matching leather holdalls to carry medical equipment.

But in reality, there has never been a standard kit for home deliveries in the 70 years of the NHS.

Now six trusts are trialling identical bags all filled with the same items after research revealed a third of midwives feared they were ill-prepared.

They were launched with help from the stars Linda Bassett, who plays Phyllis Crane, and Leonie Elliott (Lucille Anderson).

Baby Lifeline called for change after finding wide variation in kits carried by community midwives, who deliver 15,000 babies at home each year.

The charity's founder Judy Ledger said: "Every midwife should have the equipment needed to deliver safe care."