

# Home birth: an investigation into maternity practice across North Wales

## FUNDING

£8,900

North Wales Research Committee  
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## RESEARCH QUESTION

There is clear policy support for home birth within Wales, and a Welsh Assembly Government target to have reached 10% home birth rate by 2007– why is the home birth rate not increasing to achieve this target?

How do maternity professionals in North Wales provide a home birth service?

How do the professionals feel about providing this service?

## ABOUT THE STUDY

This research explores the issues relating to the provision and uptake of home birth choices in the Health Board's maternity services, in line with policy and practice recommendations. This includes: how the choice is described, how it is offered, and when and where it is discussed with the women and families.

We anticipate that studying the experiences and attitudes of the professionals involved in providing a home birth service in North Wales, alongside the experiences and attitudes of the women cared for by the service we will be able to offer recommendations for future service delivery.

## THE TEAM

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## DESIGN

### 3 Phase study

- Observation of 36 week birth planning visits, followed by individual semi-structured interviews with the Community Midwife, and woman.
- Case note audit of all the planned home births within BCUHB during 2010.
- Questionnaire survey for all Community Midwives, Integrated Midwives, Maternity Service Managers and Obstetricians working within BCUHB

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