What are the future prospects?

The majority of students remain within their sponsored Trust and work in all healthcare settings as a part of multidisciplinary teams. There are good opportunities for others to become specialist midwives in bereavement, HIV and Aids, substance misuse, female genital mutilation, breast feeding, aqua natal, high risk care and many other areas.

Midwives have an opportunity to work in different health care settings, and gain experience in all aspects of caring for mothers and babies. Midwives also have an option to develop their midwifery career in many different ways. It may be as a clinical specialist as a consultant midwife, or in management as a head of midwifery services, or supervisor of midwives at local authority level. Some prefer to pursue an academic career in education and research. Midwives have developed innovative specialist roles in ultrasound, foetal medicine, intensive care neonatal units, public health, parenting education and many others. There are also opportunities for midwives to work in the European Community, or overseas with Voluntary Service Overseas.

Working within the NHS & hospitals

NHS Careers
https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/midwifery/midwife
A comprehensive look at the sector from by far the biggest employer of midwives, featuring details about entry requirements and training, potential career paths and case studies. The website also links to NHS Jobs (https://www.jobs.nhs.uk) which is where you’ll be able to search for employment opportunities within the NHS.

Department of Health (DH)
www.dh.gov.uk

Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC)
www.nmc-uk.org

Royal College of Midwives (RCM)
www.rcm.org.uk

College of Radiographers
www.sor.org

King’s College Hospital
www.kch.nhs.uk

MIDIRS
www.midirs.org
A midwifery information and resource service, with research information relating to childbirth.

Health visitor

Training as a health visitor involves taking a shortened degree or postgraduate course, which will lead to you becoming a registered specialist community public health nurse. This role involves working closely in a community to promote good health and prevent illness, often through educational programmes and home visits. You will usually need around two years’ experience as a qualified midwife or nurse (in any branch,) before you can begin an approved health visitor training programme and work as a health visitor. There is currently a recruitment drive, in order to recruit 4,200 more health visitors by 2015.

Courses are run on a one-year full-time or two years part-time basis, and are fully funded through the NHS. You can find your nearest course provider through the NHS’ health careers website (https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/health-visitor.)

Aid and charity

Voluntary Oversees Services
www.vso.org.uk
If you wish to travel or work abroad you may want to consider being a midwife for VOS. The roles are generally long term, ranging from one to two years, and they also have occasional short term assignments for up to six months. You will receive comprehensive financial, personal and professional support. If you apply to be a VSO midwife, you will be provided with extensive training prior to your placement.

International Midwife Association
www.midwifeassist.org
International Midwife Assistance (IMA) is a charitable, nonprofit, humanitarian organization. IMA is secular and non political. Our mission is to raise the standard of maternal/infant care in areas experiencing crises in maternal/infant health. We place midwives and other healthcare professionals in hospitals, clinics and homes to provide care.
Working with humanitarian organisations
A guide for nurses, midwives and health care professionals.

The Prison Service
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-prison-service/about/recruitment

Pregnant women
Every woman who is known to be pregnant will be consistently medically assessed and monitored, just as in the community. She may be located in a particular area of the prison dedicated to pregnant women if the prison in question has such a facility, and it is thought necessary for the wellbeing of the mother-to-be and the unborn child. Support will be provided according to individual need. Medical care is given by the local NHS maternity services and mothers give birth in a hospital with the appropriate facilities, local to the prison.

Mother and Baby Units
There are currently seven Mother and Baby Units. Two, New Hall and Holloway, keep babies with their mothers up to the age of 9 months, with a further six accommodating babies with their mothers up to the age of 18 months. Askham Grange is the only open prison with a Mother and Baby Unit. Each application for admission is assessed on an individual basis by a multi-disciplinary team, whose focus will be the best interests of the child. Every women’s prison has an appointed Mother and Baby Liaison Officer, who offers help and advice to applicants. Further information can be obtained from Prison Service Order 4801 Edition 3.

Journals & publications
Nursing Times
www.nursingtimes.net
Nursing Standard
www.nursing-standard.co.uk
British Journal of Midwifery
http://www.britishjournalofmidwifery.com
Midwifery Today
www.midwiferytoday.com

AIMS
www.aims.org.uk
Association for Improvements in the Maternity Services - support and information for women and midwives.

Association of Radical Midwives
www.midwifery.org.uk/
A comprehensive website for women and midwives, helping to share information and skills and to empower midwives in their role of being the woman’s advocate.

BirthChoiceUK
www.birthchoiceuk.com
An information site, with the aim of enabling women to choose where to have their baby, as well as things to know during their pregnancy. Maternity statistics are also provided.

Doula UK
www.doula.org.uk
A Doula is “an experienced woman who offers emotional and practical support to a woman (or couple) before, during and after childbirth” Doula UK includes information on how to train and become a doula UK member.

Independent Midwives Association
www.independentmidwives.org.uk
Listings of independent midwives throughout the UK.

National Childbirth Trust (NCT)
www.nct.org.uk
Support for families ante- and post-natally.

The Good Birth Company
https://www.birthpoolinabox.co.uk
UK pool, breast pump and birthing ball hire.

UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative
www.unicef.org.uk/BabyFriendly/
A site which works with the health services to improve practice so that parents are enabled and supported to make informed choices about how they feed and care for their babies.

What else can a midwife do?
- Antenatal and postnatal care
- Counselling
- Helping mothers & partners prepare for parenthood
- Senior practitioner roles; team or unit manager
- Managing other staff
- Teaching
- Become a consultant midwife
- Conduct Research
- Could move into neonatal nursing or health visiting

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