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Press release

Maternity team shortlisted for prestigious award

The list of accolades for Stepping Hill's maternity unit continues to grow following the announcement that the 'Stockport Midwives 4Young Parents' scheme has been shortlisted for the national Nursing Times Award.

The annual Nursing Times Award gives recognition to the individuals and teams of midwives and nurses whose quality of service continues to raise the standard of healthcare in the UK.

'Stockport Midwives 4Young Parents' has been a huge success and the scheme is designed to meet the needs of young parents in the region by placing a special emphasis on engaging young men and introducing an innovative contraceptive care plan during pregnancy.

Consultant midwife, Debbie Garrod, explains: "The service aims to reduce health inequalities and improve the life chances of young parents and their babies. It is often the more deprived areas of the borough that require our help and that is where we are focussing most of our efforts.

"Our midwives are all members of the Stockport Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and are committed to working with young parents to reduce unwanted repeat conceptions. The hard work has been paying off and we have seen an increase in the number of young women opting for longer lasting methods of contraception following birth."

Chief executive, Chris Burke, added: "The maternity team keeps going from strength to strength. The Trust is always implementing ways to improve our

service and Stockport Midwives 4Young Parents is a great example of how we can make a difference to the community we serve.

“It doesn’t seem like a month goes by that we don’t hear about another fantastic achievement for the maternity team - we may need to invest in a bigger awards cabinet”.

Stepping Hill’s maternity team completed the next stage of the judging process and the winner will be announced at the Nursing Times Awards night on 18th November. The Trust will be hoping to add this award to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Maternity (APPGM) award that they won in July. The unit was also recently shortlisted for the Health Service Journal Awards and has been selected as one of only 12 maternity units throughout the UK to gain a place on the Safer Births Network*.

Ends

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Notes to editors:

For more information about the Nursing Times Awards, please visit: <http://www.ntawards.co.uk/>.

* The Safer Births network aims to improve the outcomes of care during labour and birth for women and babies. The network will provide customised support to 12 multi-disciplinary maternity teams in England from a service improvement specialist. Bespoke consultancy support and access to the expertise, tools and activities of the Safer Births partners will also be available. The Safer Births initiative will organise face-to-face networking and learning opportunities for network members and also facilitate the exchange of information and learning via a secure online facility. Regional events will bring network members and other teams together to help share learning and best practice within strategic health authority regions.