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Helen scoops top national midwifery award

A SENIOR midwife at The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust has walked away with one of the top prizes at the Royal College of Midwives' annual awards.

Helen Hindle, who is based at The Royal Oldham Hospital, and also a senior lecturer at Salford University, won the Department of Health award for implementing government policy, along with her fellow university lecturer colleague, Kathryn Murphy who works at Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust.

Working on a project to help midwives recognise early signs of deterioration and collapse among women during pregnancy and childbirth, the ladies were presented with their award by RCM patron, Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, Princess Anne at a special ceremony in Kensington, London.



Helen and Kathryn have worked on a post-registration midwifery education module for a number of years aimed at improving the observation of women during pregnancy. Their innovative module provided a strong collaboration between education, midwifery, nursing, obstetrics and anaesthetics.

Helen said: "Kathryn and I became aware of the increasing need for providers of training to midwives to ensure that midwives working in the new government model can recognise and respond appropriately to early signs of deterioration and collapse during childbirth. Spotting these tell-tale signs can prevent women's health from worsening during pregnancy and allows the midwives to prepare themselves with the skills and knowledge needed to look after women who require more complex and high level care during their pregnancy."

Winning the award was a fantastic surprise for Helen. She said: "We had to go to London in December to give a presentation about our entry. We felt that the judging panel seemed quite positive, but I was still nervous of the result at the award ceremony. I was really thrilled and delighted to receive the award with Kathryn, and so proud of myself, the Trust and Salford University for supporting me in my work."

Meeting Princess Anne was an added bonus for Helen too. She added: "We were lucky enough to be introduced to her before the awards and she then asked us about our project as she presented us with our trophy. As she is a great ambassador for midwifery, it was so good to see her in the flesh."

Cathy Warwick, general secretary of the Royal College of Midwives, said: “This award for Kathryn and Helen highlights the important, innovative and pioneering work being done by their Trusts and Salford University and I congratulate them both and their university and the Department of Health. It is important for people to know that midwives are constantly striving for excellence regarding research.”