New mothers’ views on continuity of care provided by midwives and health visitors

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This study is part of the COPE project, for info see https://blogs.city.ac.uk/cope/
Study aim and methodology

Aim

To elicit women’s experiences of the continuity of care provided by midwives and health visitors in relation to their and their infant’s care.

Methods and participants

- Recruited 28 women with a child younger than 12 months (mean age mother 33 yrs, mean age child 5 mths, 65% 1st time mothers)
- Recruited through social media, National Childbirth Trust, word of mouth
- Semi-structured interviews by phone (16 – 49 minutes)
- Analysed using thematic analysis
Findings and conclusion

Expectations regarding information sharing
- Some surprise health visitors not aware of what was told to midwife or what happened in pregnancy.
- Happy for medical information to be shared between healthcare professionals.
- Assume midwives and health visitors know what is important to share.

Conclusion
- Midwives and health visitors should be
  - Reassured that women are happy for information regarding their care to be shared.
  - Encouraged to share information to improve care.