

Description

Meet the team! – Elli



ade up entirely of student and newly-
ur wonderful journal, so we know we're
meet one of the team!

gham City University

What's your role at TSM and how long

have you been involved?

I am the co-editor of The Student Midwife Journal and have been since September 2022. My role focuses on editing and proofing content, liaising with authors, and coming up with ideas. I love that I learn new things about midwifery as I copy edit other authors' work!

What's your background?

As a teenager, I studied a degree in Journalism, and went on to work in marketing and communications. I worked in both the public and private sector, and most recently for a county council. I always knew I wanted to be the midwife but it never felt like the 'right time'. During the pandemic I realised there is no time like the present and embarked on my midwifery journey. My knowledge of the public sector, writing and communications has all helped me with both my degree, and my role at TSM, as I have a good understanding of what makes content 'digestible' and interesting.

What are your main values that drive you?

Courage and bravery. I think it is really important to not only stand up for your beliefs and speak out for what is right, but to use your own personal experiences (both positive and negatives) to inform your future. I also think it's important to always try to enjoy yourself, you never know what is around the corner, so eat the burger, go on the trip, and spend some time looking after no1 (you!)

What's your proudest moment so far?

Being offered the role at TSM was certainly one of my most proud moments throughout my midwifery career so far, and writing a piece for the January issue of the journal has also been an incredibly proud moment for me. Another proud moment was that after I worked with a midwife for a couple of night shifts on labour ward, she had not only left me amazing feedback on my placement document, but gone above and beyond to send me a personal email with some lovely comments which I could share with my assessors and tutors.

What's your area of passion?

Working with women and birthing people with social vulnerabilities, as well as supporting those with bereavements.

Is there anything you dislike about midwifery?

It is hard. Incredibly hard. Doing a midwifery degree and requiring so much energy and effort to be full time student, as well as working 12-13 hour shifts is gruelling. I know my end goal, and the good times are REALLY good times, but it is an exhausting journey getting there!

What's the most pressing issue facing the sector?

Retention within the job. Midwifery courses across the UK are oversubscribed, with thousands of applicants each year. There are so many students wanting to be apart of this sector, but what is keeping them on the course, and then what is keeping them in the jobs? Midwifery degrees are hard, and you are then thrust into a preceptorship which is a big jump, and you still require a lot of support until you are ready to move onto the next banding. Some Trusts have dedicated clinical support teams, which is fantastic and hopefully something that encourages preceptees to stay in the same Trust. However, there are so many midwives leaving the profession as they feel there is nothing keeping them there. I feel that implementing incentive schemes, as well as providing robust support systems for staff would be positive steps forward. Midwives used to look after 1 or 2 women at a time and are now expected to look after double or triple that, but are still paid the same. There are so many things that could improve working conditions and encourage people to stay within the roles.

Labour ward, Postnatal ward or Community?

Oooh! tough one, but on recent placement experience I'll say labour ward.

What's your one tip for student midwives?

Always remember your why.

What's for dinner tonight?

Fishcakes, potatoes, and asparagus.

Category

1. Student Midwife Blog

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