**Care outside of guidance speaker biographies**

**Lia Brigante Policy & Practice Advisor**

Lia is a midwife with a decade of experience, she has been working in a series of roles including clinical midwifery, research, public health, teaching, and consulting. Lia joined the Royal College of Midwives in 2017, contributing to improvement of maternity policy and midwifery practice across the UK and internationally, working with European Midwifery Association and representing ICM on WHO Guidance Development Groups. Lia’s last role in the NHS was in a development post as Consultant Midwife in Public Health at Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust in London. Lia is part of the RCM Expert Clinical Advisory Group and led on a number of resources to support the pandemic response, including authoring the joint RCM/RCOG guidance on provision of midwifery-led settings during the pandemic. Lia is passionate about providing holistic women-centred care, building relationships and facilitating choices: particularly around place of birth having extensive experience in facilitating homebirths. Lia has conducted research on place of birth, the role of consultant midwives and women’s experiences of continuity of carer (POPPIE trial) at King’ College London as part of her MSc in Implementation Science.

**Julie Frohlich, Consultant Midwife, Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust**

Julie is a consultant midwife based in London at Guy’s St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust. Julie has 34 years' experience as a practising midwife with expertise in antenatal and intrapartum care. Julie’s career has included posts in hospital and community clinical midwifery, research, education, and midwifery management. She has a particular passion to promote women's rights in pregnancy and she is a trustee of Birthrights. Julie has a special interest and expertise in preventing severe pelvic floor and perineal trauma and she is a trustee of MASIC. Julie has expertise in facilitating vaginal breech birth and physiological twin births. She runs a care planning clinic for women with more complex pregnancy or for women wishing to explore options for care 'outwith guidelines.' She also run a postnatal debrief clinic. Julie regularly acts as an expert witness in litigation cases, most often for NHSR and occasionally for claimants. Julie has also acted as an expert witness for the coroner’s court.

**Claire Feeley, Lecturer, King’s College London**

Claire qualified as a midwife in 2011, completed her MSc in 2015 and a PhD in 2019. She has worked clinically in all areas of midwifery, in all settings, and across different trusts – specialising in normal birth across the risk spectrum, water immersion, advocacy and change implementation. Claire’s primary research focus has been on the sociocultural-political interactions upon women’s access to, engagement with and experiences of maternity care. Grounded within interests of health inequalities, childbirth choices, autonomy, rights, and care provision issues; her core research focus is on ‘full-scope’ midwifery skill, competence and enabling (or not) working environments as the solution to overcoming many of the issues. Claire’s primary educational focus, through lecturing and workshop delivery, is around these issues as well as reproductive rights, feminist thinking and research methodology.