



Responding to the 'Call to Action'

A programme of research to support the Health Visitor Implementation Plan

Donetto S., Whittaker K., Grigulis A., Malone M., Cowley S., & Maben, J.

National Nursing Research Unit – King's College London

The Health Visitor Implementation Plan 2011-2015

Workforce expansion - 4,200 extra health visitors by 2015 - for a new service vision:

Community level – Health visitors work to develop a range of community services and to ensure parents know about these.

Universal services – Health visitors and their teams provide the Healthy Child Programme to ensure a healthy start for all children and their families.

Universal plus services – A rapid response when specific expert help is needed, e.g. with postnatal depression, weaning, a sleepless baby.

Universal partnership plus services – Support from the health visiting team and a range of other local services for more complex issues over a period of time.

The team



Prof Jill Maben

Professor of Nursing Research

Prof Sarah Cowley

Professor of Community Practice Development

Dr Sara Donetto

Social Science in Health Care, Research Associate

Dr Astrida Grigulis,

International Health, Research Associate

Dr Mary Malone

SCPHN Programme Lead and Research Fellow

Dr Karen Whittaker

Health Visitor Lecturer and Research Fellow

The programme of research

Overarching aim:

To provide evidence from existing research and fresh insights from empirical work to inform the planned health visiting service expansion

Stream 1: A narrative review of the literature on health visiting

Methods: Focused, topic-based database searches and integration of literature with expert input

Software-assisted sorting and coding of ~600 abstracts

Critical analysis of ~300 publications

Questions: What are the key components of health visiting practice?

Stream 2: Recruitment and retention study

Methods: Scoping review of the relevant literature

Qualitative empirical study based on in-depth interviews and group discussions with practising health visitors, students and lecturers

Locations: Two Higher Education Institutions and associated NHS Trusts in England

Questions: What attracts new recruits and returners to the profession?

What factors help retain health visitors?

Stream 3: Exploring service users' views

Methods: Scoping review of the relevant literature

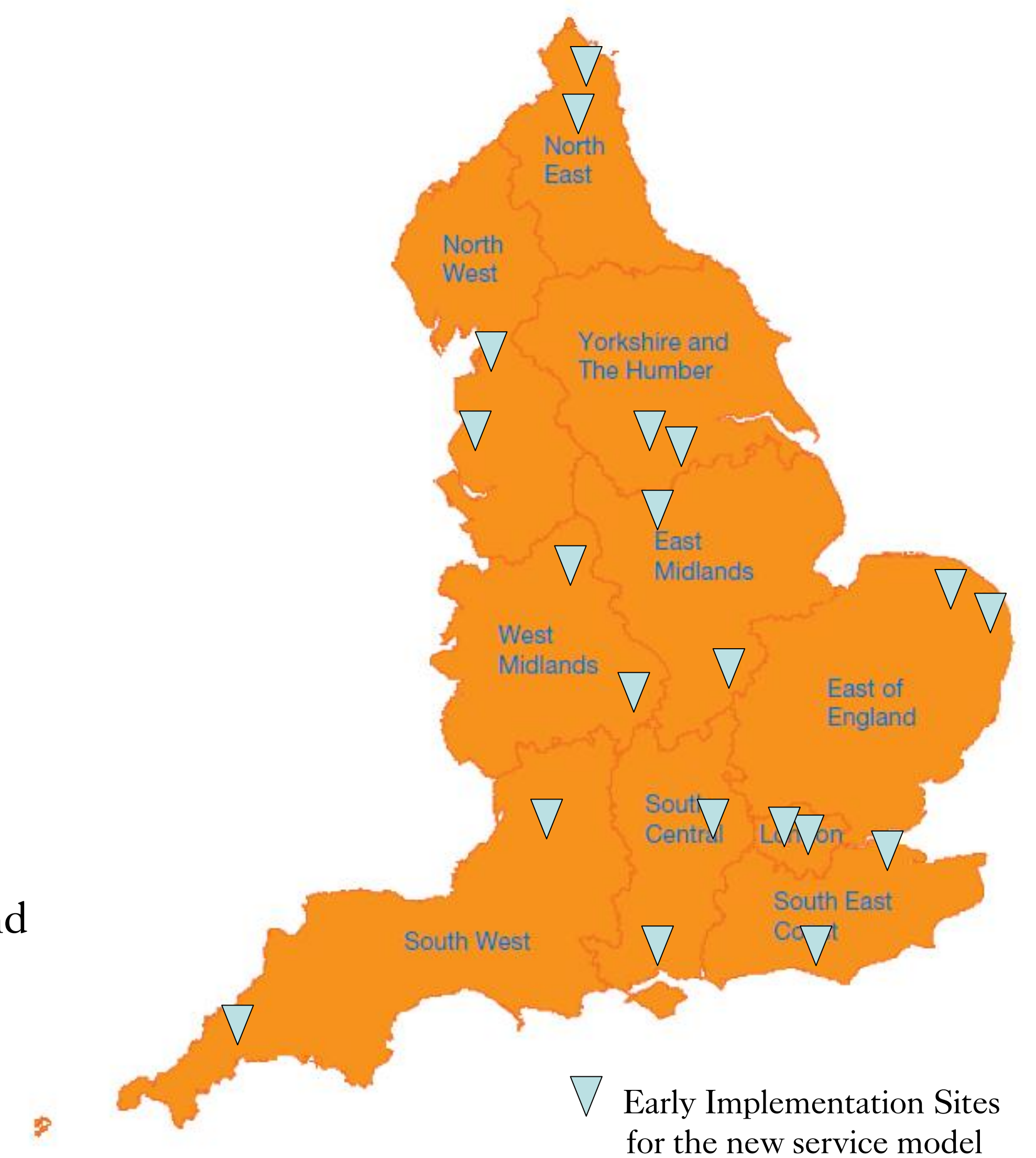
Qualitative empirical study based on group discussions and in-depth interviews with parents and carers

Locations: Two Early Implementation Sites in England

Questions: What aspects of health visitors' practices do service users find valuable and enabling?

What do parents think of the new service and 'family offer'?

What skill mix and team working models do service users find most constructive and helpful?



The timescale



Your thoughts

We would really value your input:

- Do you know of any unpublished research that you would recommend?
- Do you have any thoughts on student recruitment or staff retention?
- Do you have any suggestions for exploring parents' views?

Please leave your comments – anonymously if you like – in the envelope provided.

For further information, ask a member of our team today or email:

sara.donetto@kcl.ac.uk or astrida.grigulis@kcl.ac.uk

THANK YOU!