NHS
Yorkshire and the Humber

Examining the feasibility of Digipen use by Supervisors of Midwives in the Yorkshire and the Humber LSA

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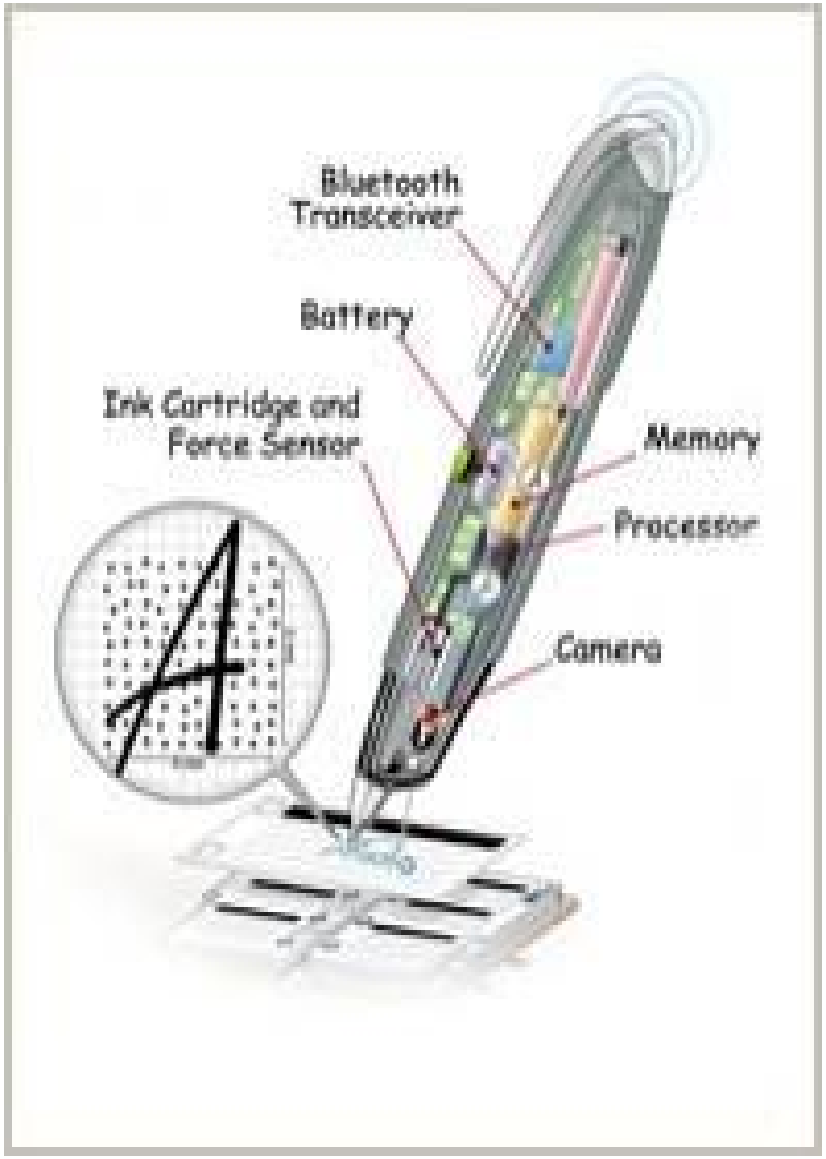

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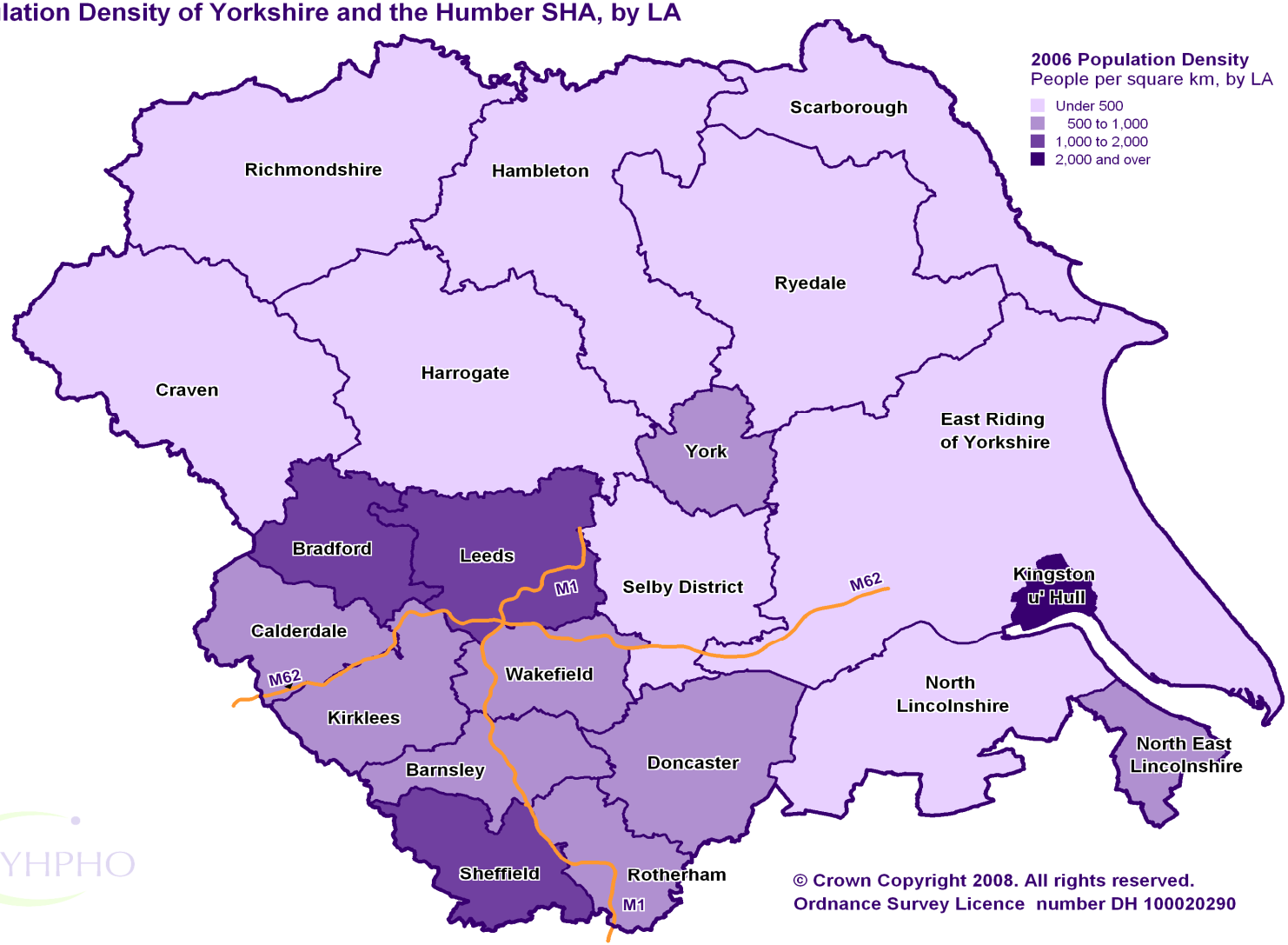
Population Density of Yorkshire and the Humber SHA, by LA



YHPHO

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Yorkshire and the Humber

Yorkshire and the Humber LSA – key facts

- 2nd highest vulnerability in England - judged by "fuel poverty"
- Disparity in Infant deaths of almost 3x from one area to another
- Half the population are smokers/ex-smokers, 12,500 in pregnancy
- 24% of women were obese in 2004 – 06

Source: Yorkshire and the Humber Public Health Observatory http://www.yhpho.org.uk/

- 14 Trusts; 24 sites; 65,227 births (2008/09 ↑2%)
- 2812 ITPs, 2676 midwives, 204 SoMs (2008/09 ↑2%): Ratio 1:13
- Teaching hospitals to stand alone birthing units
- 38 som inquiries (1:1717 births); 2 NMC referrals
- 6/18 SUIs related to midwifery – (1:10871); 9 maternal deaths

Source: 2008-09 Yorkshire and the Humber LSA Annual report http://www.yorksandhumber.nhs.uk

Recent key LSA achievements

- Supervision "valued" **(Paeglis 2009 a & b)**
- Successful NMC review of the LSA **(September 2009)**
- 4 of the 18 Good practice points within: *Supervision, Support and Safety: Analysis of the 2007-08 Local Supervising* **(NMC 2008)**
- Piloting of NPSA Intrapartum scorecard and hosted the 2009 Kings Fund *"Safer Births"* conference
- 3 presentations at 2009 NMC conference, 5 here, 3 at the 2010 LSAMO Forum (UK) conference

LSA challenges in line with the QIPP agenda

- Increased clinical and supervisory activity, service suspensions
- Midwife : births ratios: Range 1:27 – 1:37
- Time, administrative support and age profile of supervisors
- Learning from Serious Untoward Incidents (1:10871)
- Increase in vulnerable population / complexity of cases
- Focused attention on neonatal outcomes
- Implementation of *Healthy Ambitions* and *Maternity Matters*

What is said about supervision?

"*supports protection of the public by promoting best practice, preventing poor practice and intervening in unacceptable practice*" **(NMC 2007)**

"*…… important role to play in providing leadership that is focused on safety*" **(Kings Fund 2008)**

"*Trusts should provide protected time and renumeration*" **(HCC 2008)**

"*Evaluate effectiveness of Statutory Supervision of Midwives*"

(DH 2009)

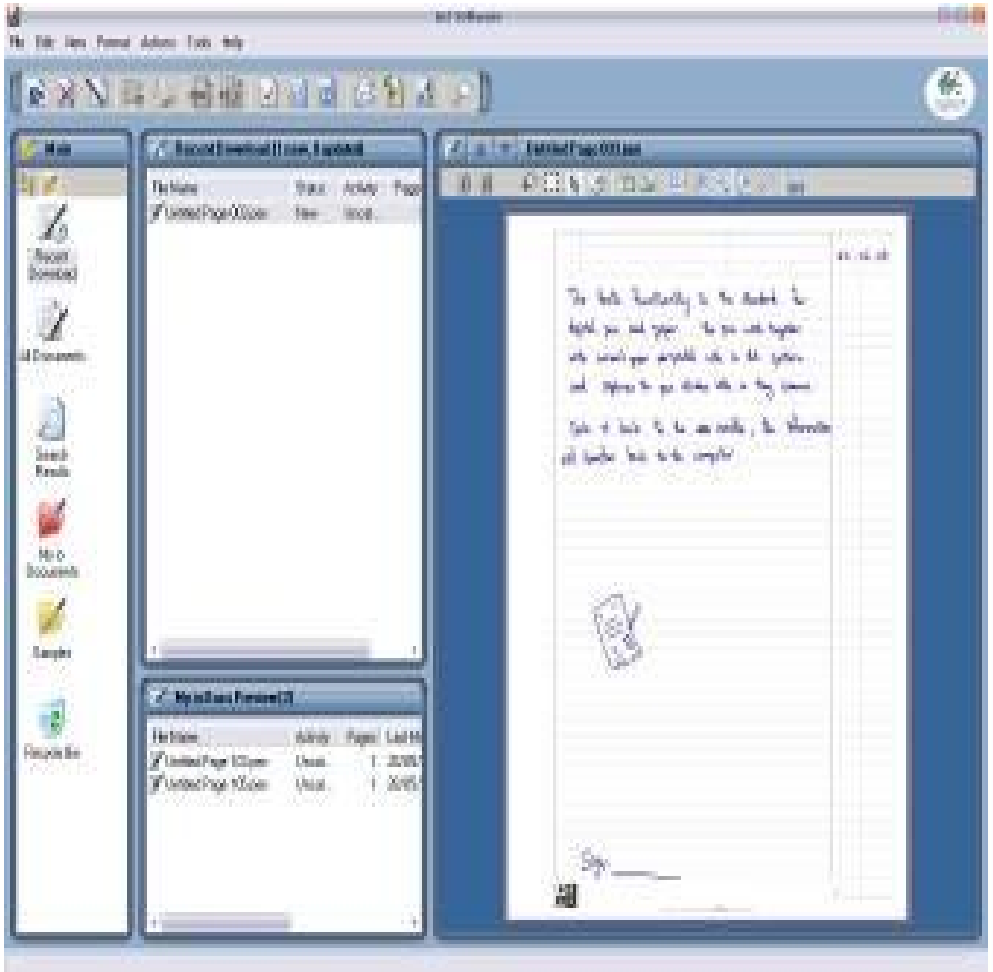
Background to the project

- Increase in LSA, clinical and supervisory activity
- Protected time and administrative support
- Numerous records
  - Supervisory reviews
  - Logging general activity / contact time
  - On call / day to day discussions
  - Investigatory notes / root cause analysis
  - Conference / study notes / meetings
- Drive for innovation and productivity (QIPP)

How the Digipen works

- works with paper overprinted with a dot pattern
- captures the pen strokes with a tiny camera
- data upload by docking into PC / mobile phone
- handwriting recorded by the pen stored as an exact digital copy
- can convert image into text and store within a word processor or store it as an image
- time, date, unique pen identity stored

The Digipen



Perceived benefits

- release of time / minimising duplication of effort
- secure storage of data
- copy can be provided instantly
- may improve handwriting
- enhanced IT literacy
- captures supervisory activity – date, time

Project

- Project marketed
- Recruitment: Directors of Nursing, Contact SoMs
  - 8 trusts participated
- Encryption and security addressed
- Personal instruction
- Software installation by IT departments
- Evaluation

Results

- **Positive** - valuable with pre designed templates and software further refined
- **Negative**
  - bulky / difficult to write with
  - time taken to “teach” the Digipen
  - writing recognized chronologically, so additions could not be inserted to earlier text
  - some download / loss of data
  - software needs installing on each PC used

The way forward: over to you …….

Yorkshire and the Humber

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