BSc Midwifery
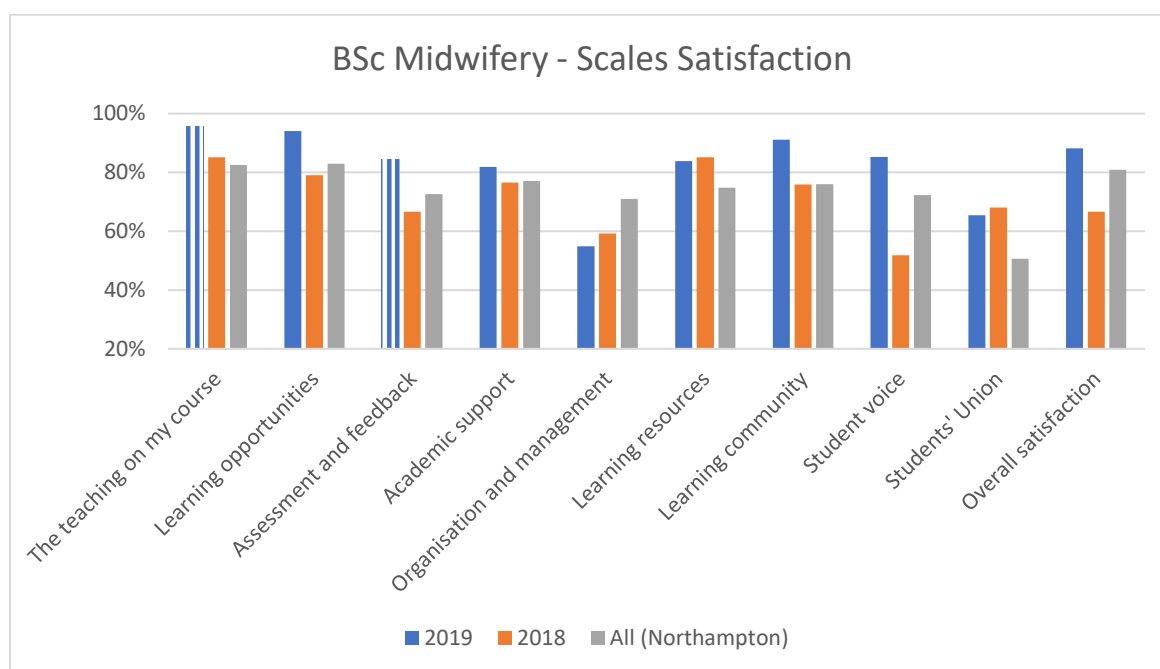
For BSc Midwifery, overall satisfaction enhanced by 22 ppts, and is now just shy of the University's target of 90%. Improvements were also witnessed on the other, key metrics, with two of these – course teaching, and assessment and feedback – now hitting their respective targets. For the former, 97% now concluded that staff give good explanations (Q1), after a rise of 16 ppts; regarding the latter, 94% asserted that feedback had been timely (Q10), but there was more scepticism (67%) as to whether these comments were helpful (Q11). Academic support was slightly held back by a 15-ppt decline in being able to contact staff (Q12).

Approval for organisation and management was the lowest of any scale, as outlined below:

- Well-organised course (Q15): 47% (up by six ppts);
- Efficient timetabling (Q16): 62% (down by 12 ppts);
- Communication of changes (Q17): 56% (down by seven ppts).

Personal academic tutors (PAT) were praised by respondents as being 'exceptional' for the support they had offered. Indeed, one PAT 'attended placement on a regular basis to check how students' progress was'. The experience of placements has 'always been positive', with one sample member describing them as 'well-organised'.

However, each timetable is 'rarely delivered promptly' and 'often changes', which has 'not been adequate'. One respondent explained: "Getting timetables one working day before is not helpful and resulted in making childcare arrangements extremely difficult." Furthermore, room allocation is referred to in the comments as 'not fit for purpose'. Another stated: "Due to the size of our cohort, the facilities aren't suitable …; therefore, students have to sit on the floor for our lectures." A third added: "[We] cannot use the Midwifery lab for classes because other courses have been given priority of the room … This has truly impacted on our learning."

RECOMMENDATIONS: Better promotion of the MyNorthampton app to staff is required, so that they send out notifications to students in the event of room changes. Course changes must be communicated to students at the first opportunity. Room allocation must factor in the size of the cohort – students needing to sit on the floor for lectures is not acceptable.