



DonnaOckenden

## **NATIONAL CHARITIES AND INDEPENDENT REVIEW TEAM JOIN TOGETHER TO REMEMBER EVERY BABY LOST**

The Independent Maternity Review team led by Donna Ockenden and a range of national charities will come together this year during Baby Loss Awareness Week, to recognise the scale and impact of losing a baby and fundraise to support the work carried out by a number of leading charities.

MAMA Academy, Babyline, SANDS and Child Bereavement UK are all charities committed to improving maternity care and safety and supporting grieving families who have lost a child in tragic circumstances.

Donna Ockenden, Chair of the Independent Maternity Review, said:

“I have been a midwife for over 30 years and recognise the tragedy of losing a baby at any stage is heart-breaking, such as often leaves families feeling isolated in their grief. My heart goes out to mothers and families who have suffered the loss of a baby or pregnancy”

“I will be joining forces with MAMA Academy, Babyline, SANDS and Child Bereavement UK this year for Baby Loss Awareness week, which runs across the UK from 9-15 October. This is an opportunity for us to all show compassion to mothers and families and mark the lives of their babies lost in pregnancy as well as at, or soon after birth. We will use this week to raise awareness about pregnancy and baby loss to drive forward the improvements that are needed for parents and families now and in the future.”

“Last year as the Chair of the Independent Review of Maternity Services at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust and supported by my Independent Maternity review team, published the first report of the Independent Review into maternity services at the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust. The report outlined the local actions for learning and immediate and essential actions for the Trust, as well as the maternity system across England that are required to be implemented to improve safety in maternity services locally and across England.”

“Following the publication of the first report many changes in maternity care have taken place. This has included NHS England committing to invest £95 million for increasing maternity workforce, training and development programmes as well as strengthening surveillance to identify issues earlier. The Health and Social Care

Committee on maternity safety in England, identified that NHS maternity units need an immediate investment of £350m to prevent women and babies dying from avoidable harm. Furthermore the government announced in July that £2.45million will be spent and which will be used by The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) and others to find the best ways of spotting early warning signs of babies in distress.”

“More still needs to be done to continue to improve maternity care and safety. The work of the Independent Review continues and the second report will build upon the local actions for learning and immediate and essential actions from the first report. This will determine the changes that are needed within the maternity system to improve maternity care both at the Trust and across the country.”

“Our review and the charities we work alongside are committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes for mothers and their babies and that they receive the right care during their maternity journey and postnatal period.”

“We recognise alongside the excellent maternity safety work being undertaken the terrible tragedy experienced by some mothers and their families. Let us take the time during Baby Loss Awareness Week in a #Wave of Light to remember every baby lost. I ask that you join me in honouring the lost lives of these little ones by lighting a candle or sharing an image of a candle at 7pm on Friday 15th October.”

You can find out more about Baby Loss Awareness Week by visiting <https://babyloss-awareness.org/>

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