

November 2012

BIRMINGHAM SUPPORT GROUP REACHES 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

A local support group which offers a lifeline to anyone affected by the death of a baby will mark its 30th anniversary this month.

The Birmingham branch of Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity, has spent 30 years providing support to local parents, their families and friends. The group will be holding a commemorative event on Friday, November 30th to bring together volunteers past and present, and the people they have supported throughout the years.

“The death of a baby is a devastating experience,” said Ritu Sharma, chair of Birmingham Sands. “The effects of grief can be overwhelming and parents, their families and friends can be left feeling dazed, disorientated, isolated and exhausted. At Birmingham Sands there are people who understand what it's like because many of us have been through this experience ourselves, and we are here to help offer support and information when parents need it.

“It is really important that we do something to recognise that Birmingham Sands is 30 years old this year. It will be a chance for everyone who has given up their time for Sands, and for those who have benefited from our support, to informally celebrate all our achievements over the years.”

The event will be taking place on Friday 30th November at Jurys Inn Hotel, 245 Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2HQ, from 7pm - 11.30pm.

Interviews and photo opportunities welcome.

For further information about Sands, or about the event, contact info@birminghamsands.org.uk, or call Ritu Sharma on 07811376215

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Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity, was established by bereaved parents in 1978 and obtained charity status in 1981.

Sands core aims are to:

- Support anyone affected by the death of a baby;
- To work in partnership with health professionals to improve the quality of care and services offered to bereaved families; and
- To promote research and changes in practice that could help to reduce the loss of babies' lives

Sands is a national organisation, with over 100 regional support groups across the UK.

Helpline: 020 7436 5881

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