

## Parent Speaker Volunteer Role Description

**Commitment:** 3 hours per training session - irregular

**Location:** Venues across the UK

**Supervisor:** Training and Education Team

### What does the role involve?

The Parent Speaker attends a bereavement care training session and speaks about their experience of baby loss.

Sands provides bereavement care training for: hospital-based health care professionals such as midwives, doctors, and nurses; health care professionals based in the community such as health visitors and mental health support services; non-health care professionals such as counsellors, workplaces, and parenting organisations.

The voice of bereaved parents is at the heart of our training. Giving professionals the opportunity to listen to and learn from parents is vital as we work to improve the care and support families receive.

Professionals at training often comment on how much they value hearing from a bereaved parent as it gives them the opportunity to learn how best support those going through similar experiences.

### What will I get out of this role?

An opportunity help health care and other professionals understand ongoing impact that their care has, leading to improved care for bereaved families

Experience of public speaking and influencing

### Location

No fixed venue, training sessions are held across the UK. Individual opportunities will be advertised to registered Parent Speakers, as they arise.

### Hours

The role is irregular. When a Parent Speaker is confirmed to attend a given training session, they will need to attend between 9am and 12pm

### Skills and attributes required

- Public speaking experience, or confidence to try
- The ability to communicate with a variety of audiences
- Confidence to discuss your personal experience

### Support provided by Sands

- Sands will pay all expenses incurred as a result of performing the Parent Speaker role
- There will be an opportunity to debrief with the trainer before and after the training session
- Access to all Sands bereavement support services

### Opportunities to attend

- Sands national conference
- Regional Sands events
- Occasional training opportunities