



# national bereavement c a r e   p a t h w a y

for pregnancy and baby loss

## Key findings from the independent evaluation of wave two

Fiveways carried out an independent evaluation of the National Bereavement Care Pathway with parents and healthcare professionals from 21 NHS sites in England. These sites piloted the pathway between April 2018 and April 2019, and the findings show how both groups have benefited from the Pathway during this time.

An online survey revealed high levels of satisfaction amongst parents who had received bereavement care at wave two pilot sites:



84% of parents agreed the hospital was a caring and supportive environment



92% of parents agreed they were treated with respect



89% of parents felt the decisions they made in the hospital were the right ones at the time



I would urge all NHS Trusts to adopt this approach to ensure all care surrounding baby loss meets these consistent standards.



Minister for Mental Health,  
Jackie Doyle-Price MP



It has provided a valuable tool with a national benchmark, which has been helpful to precipitate and initiate change.



Healthcare professional



I truly hope this becomes a national standard that all bereaved parents will benefit from, as I cannot express how much it has helped us navigate through this most difficult time.



Parent of a stillborn child

Surveys\* and interviews showed that the Pathway was associated with improvements in staff capability and bereavement care practice. During the period of the pilot:

76%

of professionals who were aware of the Pathway agreed that, overall, bereavement care had improved in their trust



The proportion of professionals feeling prepared to communicate with bereaved parents increased



The proportion of professionals feeling supported to deliver good quality bereavement care increased

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The support I received was beyond what I expected. The entire team was wonderful and made the difficult experience as easy as possible for us to make the right decisions.

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Parent who experienced miscarriage

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Staff feel better, before it was 'I know I've got to do footprints', now it is 'I want to do footprints because I know it is good for the family.'

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Healthcare professional

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It's not something that you ever want to have to deal with. You don't want this care. But when you do need it, it's important that it's at the right level, and it's consistent, and it's open to all.

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Bereaved parent

\*Baseline and follow up surveys were taken by 1,268 and 494 health professionals respectively.