

# All-Party Parliamentary Group on Baby Loss

## Annual Report

**Reporting year: December 2024 – December 2025**

### **Overview:**

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Baby Loss aims to raise awareness of what more can be done by the Government, Parliament and other agencies to improve care for families after pregnancy and baby loss, and to improve safety in maternity services to reduce the risks.

Chair: Andy MacNae MP

Vice Chairs: Alison Bennet MP, Michelle Welsh MP, Saqib Bhatti MP

### **About the Secretariat:**

Sands is the charity speaking up about pregnancy and baby loss, saving babies' lives and supporting bereaved families. We are here to support everyone touched by pregnancy loss or the death of a baby.

We provide trauma informed bereavement support as well as providing a safe, understanding and caring community for anyone who needs us. We raise awareness of baby loss and work with governments, the NHS and healthcare professionals to make saving babies' lives and improving bereavement care a priority.



## Work of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Baby Loss

### Meetings and events

#### **Inaugural General Meeting:**

At the Inaugural General Meeting in December 2024, Andy MacNae MP was elected as the Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Baby Loss. Alison Bennett MP, Michelle Welsh MP and Saqib Bhatti MP were elected as Vice Chairs.

The members present at the meeting agreed that the work of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Baby Loss would focus on raising awareness of what more can be done by the Government, Parliament and other agencies to improve care for families after pregnancy and baby loss and to improve safety in maternity services and reduce the risks.

#### **All-Party Parliamentary Group on Baby Loss meeting (February):**

In February, the All-Party Parliamentary Group heard updates on the political and policy developments around pregnancy and baby loss, followed by an interactive session to enable attendees to feed into a response to the Change NHS Consultation.

Speakers included Rob Wilson and Georgia Stevenson (Sands and Tommy's Joint Policy Unit) and Katie Russell (parent speaker).

Minutes from the meeting are available [here](#).

#### **All-Party Parliamentary Group on Baby Loss meeting (May):**

In May, the All-Party Parliamentary Group held a meeting focused on the inequalities within in pregnancy and baby loss.

Speakers included Alicia Burnett (Black Baby Loss Awareness Week), Rachel Burrell and Gina Reeves (Ebony Bonds Bereavement Support), Mohamed Omer ((Muslim Gardens of Peace), Simon Riley and Waseema Shaikh (The Alder Centre), Dr Celia Burrell (Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust), Professor Judith Rankin and Professor Joht Singh Chandan (National Institute for Health Research Maternity Disparities Consortium).

Minutes from the meeting are available [here](#).



### **All-Party Parliamentary Groups on Baby Loss and Maternity joint event (October):**

To mark Baby Loss Awareness Week (BLAW) in October, the All-Party Parliamentary Groups on Baby Loss and Maternity held a joint event about the importance of good bereavement care, to discuss the urgent need to improve the quality and consistency of the care received by bereaved parents.

Speakers included, Baroness Gillian Merron (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Women's Health and Mental Health), Alicia Burnett (Black Baby Loss Awareness Week), Ayesha Anandji Demetriou (bereaved parent), Bex Walsh (Bereavement Lead Midwife at the Royal United Hospitals Bath, NHS Foundation Trust), Chris Binnie (Bereaved parent and lived experience expert on bereavement care), Clea Harmer (Sands), Kate Brintworth (Chief Midwifery Officer) and Michelle Welsh MP (Chair, APPG on Maternity).

Following the event, the National Bereavement Care Pathway (NBCP) for pregnancy and baby loss was included in the NHS Medium Term Planning Framework. All Integrated Care Boards are now expected to take immediate action to improve bereavement care following a stillbirth or neonatal death, by implementing the best practice guidance outlined in the NBCP. This marks a significant step forward in ensuring that all parents and families receive high-quality bereavement care following the loss of a baby.

The Chairs of the All-Party Parliamentary Groups on Baby Loss and Maternity issued the [this statement](#) in response to the announcement.

Minutes from the event are available [here](#).

### **All-Party Parliamentary Group on Baby Loss meeting (December):**

In December, the All-Party Parliamentary Group held an end of year meeting, with a series of presentations of new work taking place around pregnancy and baby loss.

Speakers included Dr Clair Evans (Chair of the Speciality Advisory Committee for Prenatal, Perinatal and Paediatric Pathology, The Royal College of Pathologists), Katie Wheeler (Campaign for Gigi), Jenny Ward (The Lullaby Trust), Heidi Eldridge (MAMA Academy), Emily Butler (The Perinatal Institute), Keelie Grindley (Lead Midwife for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at UHNM NHS Trust and Founder, Nya Birth Collective) and Racheal Crane (Baby loss and Bereavement specialist).

Minutes from the meeting are available [here](#).

## Parliamentary activity

### Change NHS Consultation:

Following the meeting in February, the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Baby Loss made a submission to the Change NHS consultation to inform the 10 Year Health Plan.

The submission was shaped by the seventy attendees at the meeting, and highlighted the need for NHS maternity, neonatal and bereavement care services to be safe, supportive and equitable, as well as the importance of staffing, accountability for implementing recommendations, and funding.

The submission also responded to the proposal to shift care from hospitals into the community, the actions the Government must prioritise to improve maternity and neonatal services and what needs to happen to make the 10 Year Plan a reality.

The full submission can be accessed [here](#).

### Baby Loss Awareness Week debate:

The annual baby loss debate saw forty MPs stay in the House of Commons until past midnight, sharing their own and their constituents' experiences of baby loss.

Jointly secured by the All-Party Parliamentary Groups on Baby Loss, Maternity and Patient Safety, the debate was attended and responded to by The Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP, the first time a Health Secretary has done so.

The Prime Minister acknowledged the importance of the baby loss debate at Prime Minister's Questions the following week and thanked speakers for sharing their 'their powerful and moving stories'. The full transcript from the debate can be access [here](#).

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Baby Loss was proud to be joined in Westminster by bereaved parents who watched the debate from the gallery.

We would also like to thank all the MPs who participated in the debate:

- Alex Sobel MP
- Alison Bennett MP
- Amanda Hack MP
- Amanda Martin MP
- Andy MacNae MP
- Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP
- Bobby Dean MP
- Lee Barron MP
- Lizzi Collinge MP
- Luke Charters MP
- Michael Payne MP
- Michelle Welsh MP
- Monica Harding MP
- Nadia Whittome MP

- Chris Coghlan MP
- Dave Robertson MP
- Dr Adam Thompson MP
- Dr Caroline Johnson MP
- Edward Argar MP
- Fleur Anderson MP
- Gregory Stafford MP
- Jess Asato MP
- Jess Brown-Fuller MP,
- Jim Shannon MP
- Jo White MP
- John Milne MP
- Juliet Campbell MP
- Naz Shah MP
- Olivia Blake MP
- Samantha Niblett MP
- Sarah Gibson MP
- Sarah Smith MP
- Sean Woodcock MP
- Sharon Hodgson MP
- Sir Jeremy Hunt MP
- Sureena Brackenridge MP
- Susan Murray MP
- Tessa Munt MP
- Tom Morrison MP

### **Parliamentary questions:**

During the reporting year, members of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Baby Loss have raised both written and oral parliamentary questions on a range of topics relating to pregnancy and baby loss, and support and care for bereaved parents.

### **Correspondence:**

During the reporting year, the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Baby Loss sent correspondence as part of its role in raising awareness of pregnancy and baby loss and contributing to relevant policy discussions.

In May 2025, the Chairs of the All-Party Parliamentary Groups on Baby Loss, Maternity and Patient Safety jointly wrote to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to ask that the 10-Year Health Plan includes a focus on improving maternity, neonatal and bereavement care.

### **Meetings:**

During the reporting year, the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Baby Loss held meetings with senior politicians around pregnancy and baby loss, including a meeting with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and two meetings with Baroness Valerie Amos around the National Maternity and Neonatal Investigation.

## Thanks:

We would like to thank all the of the parliamentarians who have been members of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Baby Loss over the reporting year:

- Andy MacNae MP (Chair)
- Alison Benett MP (Vice Chair)
- Michelle Welsh MP (Vice Chair)
- Saqib Bhatti MP (Vice Chair)
- Abtisam Mohamed MP
- Dr Adam Thompson MP
- Alice Macdonald MP
- Amanda Hack MP
- Bambos Charalambous MP
- Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick
- Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP
- Blair McDougall MP
- Bobby Dean MP
- Dave Robertson MP
- Freddie van Mierlo MP
- Helen Morgan MP
- Kate Osamor MP
- Kirsty Blackman MP
- Martin Vickers MP
- Mary Kelly Foy MP
- Maya Ellis MP
- Munira Wilson MP
- Olivia Blake MP
- Peter Lamb MP
- Peter Prinsley MP
- Rachael Maskell MP
- Sarah Gibson MP
- Sarah Hall MP
- Sharon Hodgson MP
- Sir John Hayes MP
- Steve Yemm MP
- Tessa Munt MP
- Tom Collins MP
- Tom Morrison MP
- Vikki Slade MP

We are also grateful to all the speakers, contributors and supporters of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Baby Loss over the course of the reporting year and to all who have attended our meetings and events.

We would particularly like to thank all the bereaved parents and families who have engaged with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Baby Loss and shared their experiences and expertise.



## About the report:

### Reporting year:

This report covers the period from December 2024 to December 2025.

### Publications by All-Party Parliamentary Groups:

This is not an official publication of the House of Commons or the House of Lords. It has not been approved by either House or its Committees. All-Party Parliamentary Groups are informal groups of Members of both Houses with a common interest in particular issues. The views expressed in this report are those of the Group.

### Due Diligence Statement:

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Baby Loss is not funded by a foreign government. The Group receives in-kind benefits from Sands, the pregnancy and baby loss charity, through the provision of Secretariat services. The full due diligence statement can be found on the Sands website.

### Acknowledgements:

This report has been prepared by Sands, in their role as Secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Baby Loss.