

PRESS RELEASE

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OXLEY MUM SETS UP NEW WOLVERHAMPTON SANDS SUPPORT GROUP TO HELP BEREAVED PARENTS

With 17 babies stillborn or dying shortly after birth every day in the UK, bereaved mum Laura Mongiovi is on a mission to help other bereaved parents throughout Wolverhampton.

Laura, whose son Alfonso died only a few minutes after birth in 2006, is working with the Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Charity, Sands, to set up a local support group to help anyone affected by the death of a baby.

“Alfonso was my first baby, and when he died my world fell apart,” says Laura. “At that time, and up until now, there was nowhere to turn locally for support, as the nearest Sands group was in Birmingham. I have always known that setting up a group locally was something that I wanted to do, but I have waited until I am strong enough emotionally to go ahead,” says Laura. “It’s five years since Alfonso died and although the pain of losing him will never go away, I now feel I am strong enough to help others going through the same heartache.”

Laura will work closely with local bereavement midwife, Carole Sadler, who she has been in touch with since Alfonso died. Carole works at the New Cross Hospital, and will play an active role in helping Laura to run the new Sands group.

“Parents have identified how helpful it will be to have a service which enables them to speak to other families in a similar situation,” says Carole. “I look forward to working in partnership with the local Sands group to improve quality of care and services for bereaved parents within the Wolverhampton area.”

Chaplaincy Team Leader at New Cross Hospital, Craig Fullard, has also given his full support to the new group.

“From our work with parents and families who have sadly gone experienced the death of their little one, we know that having a safe space where they can possibly share their feelings, emotions and experiences is so incredibly valuable,” says Craig. “Often for parents and families knowing that they are not alone on their journeys is so important. It is good news for parents in the Wolverhampton area that there will be a Sands group, which we know will offer some much needed care and support to those in need.”

The group will hold its first meeting on Monday, 5th March at 7pm, at the Fallings Park fire station. Laura says anyone who feels they would like support is welcome to come along. Laura can be contacted at wolverhamptionsands@yahoo.co.uk.

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Note to editors: For more information, contact:

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Key Information about Sands:

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.

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