

Ref: FOI/CAD/ID 3106

**Please reply to:**  
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### **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to the bereavement of babies.

*(a) Does your trust have a bereavement suite available for use by parents in the event of limited life expectancy of an anticipated birth of a child?*

*(b) If the answer to (a) is no, what alternative arrangements are available?*

*(c) If the answer to (a) is yes, would parents of a baby who turn up at hospital with a sudden infant death be allowed to use the bereavement suite?*

*(d) If the answer is yes to (a) where in relation to the Labour ward is the suite located?*

*(e) Do you have bereavement trained midwives? If yes, how many?*

*(f) Do you have a trained bereavement councillor at the hospital? If yes, what is the average waiting time to be able access support from that councillor?*

*(g) Do you provide any written information to parents following the loss of a baby? If yes, please name the third sector organisation information is provided from.*

*(h) Can you list the guidelines around infant death which are implemented by the hospital?*

*(i) Does the hospital provide support around funeral arrangements for infants or babies who have died at the hospital?*

(a) Yes we have a self-contained bereavement suite with kitchenette, double bed and ensuite facilities called Hope Butler Suite

- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Yes as long as the suite is not in use by parents whose baby has died in pregnancy, however most parents who come in via A&E wish to go home following such a loss. We also use the suite for babies in the Neonatal Unit with a poor prognosis.
- (d) Hope Butler is along the corridor from delivery suite next to the antenatal ward
- (e) We have two Bereavement Midwives who job share one equivalent full time position who have just been recently appointed to post.
- (f) One of the Bereavement Support Midwives is a trained bereavement councillor. Parents are usually referred to their GP to be referred for counselling.
- (g) There are trust information leaflets for early pregnancy, mid trimester loss and Stillbirth which are given to parents. Parents are also provided with SANDS information pack and Antenatal Results and Choices (ARC) information leaflets when relevant.
- (h) Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust guidelines. RCOG (2010) Late intrauterine Fetal Death & Stillbirth RCOG (2011). The care of the women requesting induced abortion SANDS (2007) Pregnancy loss and death of a baby: guidelines for professionals NICE Guideline (2007) Antenatal and Postnatal Mental Health
- (i) The Trust has a Chaplain who supports parents with funeral arrangements discusses options with parents, completes relevant paperwork with parents and takes the funeral for parents who opt for a hospital arranged funeral.
- (j) Parents are offered the option to have a post-mortem and given SANDS information leaflet on considering a post mortem examination