



Running the London marathon to support Bliss

Catherine Lawrance is a neonatal nurse at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn and has decided to take on the task of running this year's London Marathon, in support of Bliss.

She says: "I am really pleased to be running for Bliss as I experience firsthand the amazing work that they do. What sets Bliss apart from other charities is that they work on two levels. Not only do they do an amazing job helping families on a daily basis, but they go further by addressing more long-term needs through supporting research and campaigning for improvements in neonatal care."

Returning to work following the loss of a child

Sands has published an updated version of the leaflet 'Returning to work after your baby has died', providing bereaved parents with emotional support and practical information.

The leaflet includes information about maternity and paternity benefits and about rights to time off and sickness benefit. It covers the practical and emotional issues that parents who are returning to work can face.

Judith Schott, co-author of the leaflet, explains: "Returning to work can be an extremely anxious time. Many bereaved parents feel vulnerable about telling colleagues what has happened and are worried about how people are going to react. This leaflet suggests way of handling situations such as this and covers issues

In memoriam: Joe Bonavia of Dräger Medical

Submitted by Luke Bourdillon, Sales & Marketing Manager – Neonatal Care, Dräger Medical

It is with great sadness that I have to announce that, following his battle with cancer, Joe Bonavia passed away on Tuesday, 8 February, 2011.

For those of you who knew Joe, he was committed to supporting his customers within the neonatal community and was always very proud to be involved with this specialist area of healthcare. For this dedication he was well liked and respected.

At this sad time it is always best to remember the person and, in particular in Joe's case, his sense of humour which even during his illness did not diminish.



Obviously at this time all our thoughts are with his family. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me, luke.bourdillon@draeger.com.

New and updated resources from ACT

UK Children's palliative care charity ACT has published two factsheets written specifically for families of children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions, to help inform and support them throughout their child's care.

'Understanding siblings' is intended to help parents talk to siblings about their brother or sister's diagnosis and how it will affect them. It gives prompts on how to broach the subject and make sure siblings' needs are not forgotten.

'Spiritual, religious and cultural wishes' explains how these can play a big part in shaping families' wishes, and aims to give parents the confidence to ask professionals to care for their child in accordance with their beliefs.

Factsheets are available to download from www.act.org.uk/families or as printed copies from the contacts below.

ACT has also updated its popular booklet 'A Family Companion to the ACT Care Pathway'.

It gives parents useful information about what should happen throughout their child's care following diagnosis and what they are entitled to, empowering them to make decisions regarding care.

Funding from the DH has enabled ACT to offer a limited number of free printed

copies to families and professionals. Copies can be downloaded freely as a complete booklet or individual sections at www.act.org.uk/familycompanion.



The resource has been updated for 2011, making it broader and relevant to more families, wherever they live. The new version also includes a more extensive 'useful organisations' section.

Visit www.act.org.uk, call 0117 916 6422 or email susannah@act.org.uk

such as displaying photographs of the baby and the need for time off for anniversaries or emotionally challenging times such as Christmas."

A similar leaflet aimed at employers

describing how they can support bereaved parents on their return to work is also available.

For copies contact Sands on 0207 436 7940 or www.uk-sands.org/shop.html

Sands helps research team to understand why mothers and babies die

Stillbirth and neonatal death charity Sands is to give the parent perspective to a new national health programme focusing on preventing deaths and improving outcomes for mothers and babies in the United Kingdom.

A team based in Oxford will lead the national Maternal and Newborn Clinical Outcomes Review Programme from April 2011, a body of work commissioned by the National Patient Safety Agency.

The programme will investigate the deaths of women and their babies during or after childbirth, and cases where women and their offspring survive serious illness during pregnancy or after childbirth.

The remit of the new team will incorporate the Confidential Enquiries into Maternal and Newborn Health, a programme of work which aims to look at avoidable factors in the deaths of mothers and babies.

Almost one in every 100 births in the UK leads to a stillbirth or newborn death and up to 100 women die every year during or just after pregnancy. Of any group of individuals being cared for under the NHS, these baby deaths and illnesses are arguably some of the most avoidable of all, Sands believes.

The Confidential Enquiries into Maternal and Newborn Health were previously carried out by the Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries (CMACE). The Confidential Enquiries have led to major improvements in the health and care of women and their babies but medical experts believe instances of poor care still exist and further improvements can still be made.

The new programme, called MBRRACE-UK (Mothers and Babies – Reducing Risk through Audits and Confidential Enquiries across the UK), will be jointly run by the universities of Oxford, Leicester, Liverpool and Birmingham, Imperial College London, Sands and an Oxford GP.

Contact Katie Duff at Sands, tel: 0845 6520 442, katie.duff@uk-sands.org, www.uk-sands.org; Dr Jenny Kurinczuk or Dr Marian Knight at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, tel: 01865 289700, jenny.kurinczuk@npeu.ox.ac.uk or marian.knight@npeu.ox.ac.uk



Pictured are Jill Taylor of Southmead, Kathryn Blundell of Mother & Baby, Chrissie Israel and Paula Brock of Southmead, TV personality Saira Khan and Andy Cole of Bliss.

Southmead NICU earns award recognition

The neonatal unit at Southmead Hospital in Bristol has been named Neonatal Unit of the Year at the Mother & Baby Big Heart Awards 2011 (sponsored by Megabloks), in aid of the special care baby charity Bliss. In an awards ceremony in London on 12 January, representatives from the unit were presented with their award by TV personality Saira Khan.

The unit was nominated by Rebecca Lemin of Bristol whose twin girls Isabella and Eliza were born 15 weeks early on the unit in 2008. Rebecca said: "The girls had

superb care and we were treated with such compassion. Southmead made our 18 week stay bearable. The care and support they gave us as a family has enabled us to cope with the events of the last two years."

Su Monk, Clinical Matron for Child Health at North Bristol NHS Trust – which runs Southmead Hospital, said: "We have a fantastic and dedicated team at the unit and this award really is a testament to their hard work and commitment to the babies and mums and dads we care for every day."

A home from home at the Rosie

The Sick Children's Trust, which provides free, high-quality 'Home from Home' accommodation for families whose children are seriously ill in hospital, has launched a new fundraising campaign.

The charity needs to raise £400,000 to build an eight-bedroomed 'Home from Home' in the Rosie Hospital, Cambridge, to provide accommodation for families of sick children. The hospital is currently undergoing a multimillion-pound redevelopment to double its size.

Jane Featherstone, Head of Fundraising for The Sick Children's Trust said: "In 2007/08 there were 1,100 admissions to the NICU – with just three family rooms, this means that only 20 families per month could be accommodated.

"The three-storey extension will dramatically increase the number of intensive care cots from 41 to 58 so our 'Home from Home' is vital if we are



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to keep pace with demand.

"Every parent needs to stay close to their child when they are ill but this is even more important for parents of premature and sick babies as it is within those initial weeks that the bond between the two begins to develop."

This new project will take the number of The Sick Children's Trust houses in the UK to eight and is due to be completed in June 2012.