

Creating lasting memories at Bradford's Snowdrop Suite



Thanks to funding from Bradford Teaching Hospitals' Children's Charity, the Snowdrop Suite at Bradford Royal Infirmary has received a makeover. The suite of private rooms offers bereaved families a quiet space to create lasting memories with their baby.

The area is now flooded with natural light thanks to the addition of skylights. A new kitchen, fridge and curtains have been installed, furniture bought and an en-suite bathroom redecorated.

The suite also features a 'cuddle cot' that keeps the deceased baby cool. In a warm room a baby's condition can deteriorate

quickly; the cuddle cot allows the family to spend more time with their baby and helps them cope with their loss.

The trigger for the upgrade came from the comments of parents and staff who found the old suite dark and gloomy. A family who had previously used it played a key role in raising the money needed for its £14,000 refurbishment. Bradford Teaching Hospitals' Charity Fundraiser Hayley Collis said: "Parents often need a way of channelling their energies into something and we're very grateful for what they've done. The suite is now a little bit more of a home-from-home."

Head of Midwifery Sara Keogh says the newly-renovated rooms had a key role to play: "It was a very dark and claustrophobic area before, and the skylights alone now make a massive difference. It's a nice area that is very private and quiet and separate from the labour ward. It's used for women who have lost a baby unexpectedly and women whose babies have been diagnosed with a fetal abnormality, so that they can spend some time in private with baby. But we also want to involve the whole family in seeing, handling, touching and creating lasting memories. Family members can take pictures and hand and footprints too."

Sara adds: "It will have a massive impact. There is now so much great work being done to improve services for bereaved families."

The revamped and redecorated Snowdrop Suite is invaluable to parents of babies who pass away before, during or after birth in allowing them to spend time together as a family.

Maternity Unit Bereavement Midwife Julie Key says: "Support and major contributions of furniture and equipment also came from The Friends of Bradford Royal Infirmary, Bradford Sands (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society) and the 4louis charity. The parents who use the Snowdrop Suite are extremely grateful for all the donations that have been given to pay for the new facilities, which will allow them to create precious memories in a comfortable environment."



Maternity Unit Bereavement Midwife, Julie Key, and Head of Midwifery, Sara Keogh, inside the new Snowdrop Suite.

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