



Bedfordshire Sands AGM – September 2022

Date: 21st September 2022

Time: 20:30 – 22:30

Location: St Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Rd, Bedford, MK40 2PF

Agenda

1. Chairpersons Report
2. Treasurer Report
3. Fundraising Report
4. Hospital's Report
5. Committee Elections
6. AOB
 - a. BLAW
 - b. Community Engagement Update

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Befriender Support: 07474 064132
Support Meetings: 3rd Monday of every Month (see website for details)



Bedfordshire SANDS AGM Minutes

21st September 2022

Attendees:

Laura Edwards – LE	Chair
Claire Ashley – CA	Hospital Liaison & Befriender
Paolo Barbarisi – PB	Treasurer
Dalbir Sehmbi – DS	Secretary / Data Officer
Gemma Barbarisi - GB	Befriender
Sandeep Sehmbi - SS	Member

Apologies:

Rachel Martindale - RM	Member

Item	Description	Action
1.0	Chairpersons Report	
1.1	Authored and Presented by LE. See attached the end of the Minutes	N/A
2.0	Treasurer Report	
2.1	All funds continued to be provided by Head Office through core costs. At present, these are supporting the group through the supply of Memory boxes for Bedford Hospital, and the purchase of items from Sands Shop	N/A
3.0	Projects Report	
3.1	Memorial Garden	
3.1.1	New hedging (hornbeam) appears to have taken well and is doing ok. A review will be carried out early next year to decide if to replace the entire hedging to match.	
3.1.2	Still awaiting a response from the Crematorium in regards to replacing the pathway approach to match the one within the garden.	
3.1.3	Council not maintaining the Garden. PB and colleagues will maintain the garden	N/A
3.1.4	DS to put FB & email out looking for volunteers to help maintain the garden.	DS
3.1.5	PB to share the date when the Designer will attend the garden	PB
3.1.6	PB to attend the Garden 22/09 to varnish the Benches for BLAW	PB
3.2	L&D	
3.2.1	Company has confirmed that they will be replacing the doors to Suite 9 and install new fire proof and sound proof doors and the separate cupboard. Also looking to add a kitchenette to the room. Awaiting a response to confirm suitable date to carry out installation. PB to chase up contractor.	PB
3.3	Bedford	
3.3.1	Project Grant paperwork has been produced and submitted to Head Office. They are unable to submit for approval without an updated quote. Awaiting Facilities Team to obtain updated quote to include with Grant Application. PB to chase	PB
4.0	Hospital's Report	
4.1	Authored and Presented by CA. See attached at the end of the minutes	N/A
4.2	CA have asked for Booklets in different languages. Booklets not printed anymore but provided as a PDF. PB has got a print out of the QR Code for all the booklets.	N/A
4.3	Decision is to continue to provide booklet in the memory box in English. Put the QR code poster with different languages on the wall in the Breavement Suite and in the Memory box. Provide Hospital with a hard copy of all the booklets in all languages.	CA
4.5	CA to check with Sarah at the hospital if they want multiple copies of the booklets in each language or just 1 copy of each language	CA
4.6	DS/LE to get a Freedom Of Information request to both hospitals on the numbers of babies dies to soon and how many used the room.	DS / LE

4.7	A Registration should be done for the number of people who attend the support meeting. To include, location, how they found out about the Beds Sands Group	CA / GB
5.0	Committee Elections	
5.1	Chair - LE	
5.1.1	Nominated = PB	
5.1.2	Second By = DS	
5.2	Secretary - DS	
5.2.1	Nominated = PB	
5.2.2	Second By = LE	
5.3	Treasurer - PB	
5.3.1	Nominated = LE	
5.3.2	Second By = DS	
5.4	Hospital Liason - CA	
5.4.1	Nominated = GB	
5.4.2	Second By = PB	
5.5	IT / Data Officer - DS	
5.5.1	Nominated = PB	
5.5.2	Second By = LE	
5.6	Community Liason Officer - SS	
5.6.1	Nominated = LE	
5.6.2	Second By = PB	
6.0	AOB	
6.1	CA To step down from Befriending	
6.1.1	CA to step down from Befriending from beginning of October. Will continue as the Hospital Liason for the coming year. CA will decide next year to continue Hospital Liason role	N/A
6.1.2	GB will continue to Befriending. RM, SS & LE will assist with Befriending	N/A
6.1.3	All members to do a monthly status report by the last working day at the end of the month. To be sent to LE and Le will collate and send out a monthly update	LE
6.1.4	DS to post on FB looking for befriender and provide the job role details	DS
6.1.5	GB to do befriender refreshed course and and find out about befrienders supervisions.	GB
6.2	BLAW	
6.2.1	BLAW service being held at Flitwick, St Peter and St Paul. DS to Post on FB and email regarding Flitwick service	DS
6.2.2	Event to be held in Bedford Harpur Centre. Date to be confirmed 8 th October. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stand in place around atrium 	PB / DS / SS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Random Acts of Kindness to be made and handed out on the day at the event. Qty 100 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clear bag to include bubbles and Sands poster, tied with string and brown tag with poem (SS to organsie) stuck on. PB to purchase label and deliver to DS to print. • Parents to write message on other side of tag and take away. • Post on FB and email to members to ask if unable to attend we can write tag and place somewhere • Pink and Blue ribbons for parents to take away and place on benches in Memorial Garden. PB to purchase Sharpie pens as well 	
6.2.3.	Fairly lights for Memorial Garden around Oak tree (tree bench). Pink and blue. PB to purchase and "light up" for Wave of Light	PB
6.3	Community Engagement Update	
6.3.1	<p>From SS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would like to come on board to help with community engagement and linking in with other community services. • I have made contact with Ocean counselling services and have a met with the clinical lead Amanda Spong. To see whether bereaved parents that have got in touch with SANDS could be fast tracked who would like Counselling support. • Currently this is not an option as they are a small team and already have a waiting lists of Approx 12 weeks. • However once a referral has been made, they usually make contact to assess within 2 weeks. They also offer a signposting service if they feel the person may benefit from maternity specialist nurses instead. • Amanda has invited us to the non statutory services network meeting which will be held quarterly. • PB has ordered some sands posters for community engagement and awareness. • My Next steps would be to send these out to children centre's and GP Surgeries with LE. 	SS / LE

Annual Chair Report

Laura Edwards
21/09/2022

Firstly I would just like to thank each and everyone of you for the roles you all play in keeping this group running and most importantly providing support in the various ways we do to support parents and families which is ultimately the most important thing we do. This group could not run without all the hard work, support and efforts you all put in.

We are all in this for the same reasons and I believe that the group continues to go from strength to strength.

Secondly I'd like to welcome Sandeep to the committee. Sandeep has joined us as our community liaison officer to help us to reach out to parents in the wider community and enable us to put our group information and support out into surgeries and children's centers around Bedfordshire. I, as I'm sure all of us are, looking forward to seeing what you bring to the group.

We have seen some changes over the last 18 months with myself and Rachel coming back after some time away. As you know I have been part of this group in and out for the past 6.5 years dabbling in different roles and here I now am....Your chair. Thank you to you all for choosing me to chair this committee. It's an honor and a pleasure.

Since we held our last AGM last May, I truly feel like over this last 12-18 months, we have gone from strength to strength in many ways.

Befriending and Supporting:

Rachel, like myself you have dabbled in various roles over the years, with the most recent taking on the role of secretary for a short time. Now we look forward to you moving into a befriender role and I truly believe you will make a wonderful befriender and you continue to be an asset to this group. I know you have been back with us for over a year now but I just want to say that it is lovely to have you back and thank you so much for all your dedication and commitment. It has been so lovely to have you back on the committee :-)

Gemma and Claire have done a fab job running supporting meetings monthly in St Andrew's Church in Bedford. Lucy has continued to be a dedicated supporter of Bedfordshire Sands allowing us to run the support meeting from there as well as holding services for us at Christmas and some for BLAW. Thank you so much to both Gemma and Claire for all you both do in supporting parents and running the support meetings every month. The driving factor of this group is supporting parents and your role as befrienders is so important and valued.

Events:

We have held the most events over the last year that we have for quite a few years which is fabulous. The opportunity for many to all get together, support each other and remember our angels.

- We did a number of things for Baby loss awareness including the first BLAW gathering in the memorial garden was lovely for all. We have started to plan events for this year as well and will again be a valued series of events over the week.
- Our annual lights of love Xmas service was well attended and beautiful as always from Lucy. This year's service is booked in and will commence planning post BLAW.
- The garden continues to look beautiful - thank you to you Paolo and the designer for your continued work with the upkeep.

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This year we were also able to organise and run our first summer social for a few years, post covid and what a lovely event this was. Thank you to all the members here that helped to organise and also attend the event.

Hospitals:

Work, communications relationships with both Bedford Hospital and the L&D have also gained momentum over the last year.

Claire, thank you for continually keeping in contact with Sarah and supporting Bedford hospital. As a role I did previously, I know it is one of the more challenging ones, keeping relationships and communications with the hospital is challenging in itself to maintain. I think this is the most positive position we have been in with Sarah now being the dedicated bereavement midwife and being engaged with you to ensure the hospital has what it needs for parents who sadly go through a loss and use the butterfly suite. Thank you for your dedication to this liaison role, as well as befriending.

It is really positive that we are now also finally moving forward with the sound proofing work at the L&D as well as the key fob separate access project for Bedford. Both of these things will make a big difference to parents and families who sadly have to use either of the bereavement rooms. Thank you to both Claire and Paolo for keeping these two projects going and pushing for these to be implemented.

BAU:

Dalbir, you have taken back on the secretary role for a second time. What would we do without our IT wizz Dalbir! You have made such a difference to how the group communicates to our wider audiences through social media, emails, keeping our website up to date, setting up events, writing up and sending out meeting minutes, setting up zooms, taking on admin, dealing with pebble requests etc etc the list goes on. Thank you for keeping everything ticking over and also for keeping all of us in check!

Monika, who for many years took on the voluntary role of sending out anniversary & Christmas cards to parents decided to step back from this after all those years and Gemma took on the task and has continued to do a fantastic job sending out cards over the last year. A big thank you for continuing this, it is one of the extra little jobs that takes time and commitment but means so much to those who receive these cards.

I couldn't have done this role as chair, without my right hand man and the final asset to this wonderful group - Paolo. I really do have to thank you for all the support you give me as well as all you do for the group, especially with events and leading projects. You certainly keep me on my toes (in a good way). Thank you also for continuing to do a fabulous job as our treasurer. You are one of the driving forces in this group and take on multiple roles helping to support the hospitals, organising events, ordering things, putting things together and of course for continuing to keep the garden looking fabulous.

Memorial Garden:

The Memorial garden has now been open for 3 years this October. It took many years of planning, but this finally became a reality and is such a touching memorial.

I, as I am sure we all are, find this space a special place to go and remember our babies. I am saddened yet touched at the same time to see so many people have now got pebbles placed in such a special place. These pebbles have given so many parents that little something meaningful in memory of their babies, in such a lovely tranquil and beautiful garden.

So where are we now and where are we going over the next year:

All in all, the last year has been really positive, post covid there have been many challenges that we have had to tackle and as a united committee, we have all

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dedicated so much time to get back to face to face support meetings, reaching out to the community to be able to support more parents with more events being held, getting back into the hospitals and moving projects forward. I know that Dalbir and Poloa are also looking to set up the dad's socials again :-)

Thank you to all of you for continuing to push through and continuing to make the above things happen. I look forward to the group growing again over the next year. Hopefully Rachel you will be able to complete your befriender training and be able to take on more support meetings. I also know there is now specific training being offered for the hospital liaison role so that's another positive that national are recognising the importance of this role and supporting this further.

So let's see what the next year brings.....

Laura

Just a few other things I thought would be worth sharing (thanks Dalbir for getting this data over to me).

Hospital loss stats

Between August 21 and July 22 - Bedford and Luton hospital reported a total of 94 Baby losses. Which works out an average of 3-4 a month.

The UK average sits at 13 baby losses a day or 390 babies a month based on 13*30 days per month.

Figures published last year by the office of national statistics show that the number of babies who are stillborn or die within 4 weeks of birth in the UK has fallen to an average of 13 babies a day. That's 296 fewer baby deaths in 2020 than in 2019.

Facebook stats

Looking at our Facebook posts, the top 5 posts in order of those most interacted with were

1. 11.10.21 - thanking Bedford borough council for lighting up the town bridge
2. 15.10.21 - baby loss awareness memorial garden light up
3. 22.07.22 - book tickets for the summer social
4. 05.02.22 - update on hedging damage in the memorial garden and needing to be replaced
5. 17.11.21 - lights of love December service flyer

Hospital Liaison Volunteer

Claire Ashley
21/09/2022

Bedford Hospital Update

- Continue to provide memory boxes x12 delivered 16th September. Sarah to confirm they received them.
- Heart in the hands keyrings now provided.
- Toiletries ordered still need to fine string tie bags for males/ Claire to deliver to the hospital.
- Bereavement support books provided- Sands have updated bereavement books in different language are to only be provide printed not hard copies.
- BLW Sarah is to confirm with Claire Bedford plans
- Using ocean Emotional support for those living through birth trauma and birth loss
- Using remember my baby

L&D Hospital Update

- Claire to meet with Sally need to confirm date when Sally gets back with date.
- Sally has not confirmed what she needs i.e., bereavement support books etc.
- BLW Sally to confirm with Claire on Luton plans.
- Using ocean Emotional support for those living through birth trauma and birth loss
- Waiting on more update from Luton

Maternity statistics- figures are for both Bedford and Luton and Dunstable hospital June, May, April 2022 12 stillbirth

Overall, in the last 12 months we have supported both hospital, there has been some changes due to staff changes such as Helen the bereavement midwife at the L&D is on leave from her role for the time being. A new bereavement midwife Sally has been in place since May 2022. Sadly, we have had lack of communication, however myself and Sally have been trying to set a date we are both free to meet. Paolo has had contact with Sally regarding the sound proofing doors and will update us on this. We have never provided bereavement boxes as Luton wish to use another charity. I am waiting on Sally to confirm about baby loss awareness week and what they are planning or what they are doing. I will keep you update on this.

Bedford hospital have also had some changes Sarah the bereavement midwife has been in her role since June 2021. We have provided memory boxes, bereavement support booklets, heart in the hands, memory cards for the camera, and we also provide toiletries for both females and males. We have provided

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x12 boxes since September 2021

x12 boxes in December 2021 – Sands run out of memory boxes in January 2022 came in February 2022

x 12 boxes in April 2022

x12 boxes in August 2022- Sarah to let me know if she has received theses.

Total:- 48 since December 2021 to August 2022

OTHERS

x15 memory cards for the camera only in November 2021

x15 Female and male toiletries August 2022

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