Association of British Paediatric Nurses
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Committed to promoting the development of children's nursing through evidence based information about practice and education

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ABPN marks Baby Loss Awareness Week 2026: remembering babies, supporting families

9th to 15th October 2026

The Association of British Paediatric Nurses (ABPN) is proud to support Baby Loss Awareness Week, taking place from 9 to 15 October 2026, joining families, healthcare professionals and organisations across the UK in remembering babies whose lives have been lost during pregnancy, at birth or in infancy.

Now in its 24th year, Baby Loss Awareness Week provides an opportunity for everyone affected by pregnancy and baby loss to come together, remember much-loved babies and raise awareness of the experiences of bereaved families. The week is coordinated by Sands and the Baby Loss Awareness Alliance, which brings together more than 140 pregnancy and baby loss organisations. [1] [2]

For children's nurses, the week is also an important opportunity to reflect on the role that compassionate, individualised care plays when a baby dies, and on the lasting impact that healthcare professionals can have on families during and following bereavement.

In 2024, 4,477 babies were stillborn or died within the first 28 days of life across the UK, including 2,552 stillbirths and 1,925 neonatal deaths. This equates to around 13 babies dying shortly before, during or soon after birth every day. [1]

Miscarriage affects many more families, although its true prevalence remains difficult to quantify because miscarriages are not routinely recorded in national statistics. Sands reports evidence suggesting that approximately 15 in every 100 pregnancies end in miscarriage in the UK. [1]

Although progress has been made in reducing baby deaths, significant challenges remain. Thousands of families across the UK continue to experience the devastating loss of a baby each year, and recent data suggest that progress in reducing stillbirth and neonatal deaths has stalled. Outcomes also continue to vary between the four UK nations

[1] https://www.sands.org.uk/blaw
[2] https://babyloss-awareness.org/

and between different communities, reinforcing the need for continued efforts to improve care and reduce inequalities. [1]

ABPN encourages children's nurses to use Baby Loss Awareness Week as an opportunity to reflect on bereavement care within their own areas of practice, including how families are supported, how siblings are included and how staff are prepared and supported to care for families experiencing loss.

"Behind every statistic is a baby, a family and a story that matters. The death of a baby can have a profound and lasting impact on parents, siblings and wider families. Children's nurses are often alongside families during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. The way we communicate, listen, acknowledge their baby and support families to create memories can remain with them long after they leave our care. As a children's nurse and educator, I would ask every children's health service to reflect on whether our nurses are equipped, supported and, importantly, given the time they need to provide excellent, compassionate bereavement care to children and their families."

Nicola Fielding – ABPN Member and Children's Nurse

Wave of Light

Baby Loss Awareness Week concludes with the international **Wave of Light at 7pm on Thursday 15 October**, when people around the world are invited to light a candle in memory of babies who have died. [2] [3]

ABPN invites members and colleagues across child health services to take part and to help create a visible message of remembrance and solidarity with bereaved families.

Finding support

Anyone affected by pregnancy or baby loss can access information and support from organisations including:

- **Sands**, supporting anyone affected by pregnancy and baby loss and working to improve maternity safety. [2]
- **Tommy's**, providing pregnancy and baby loss information and support alongside research into pregnancy complications and loss. [4]
- The **Baby Loss Awareness Alliance**, which brings together organisations working to support people affected by pregnancy and baby loss. [1] [3]

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[1] https://jointpolicyunit.org.uk/data-hub/
[2] https://www.sands.org.uk/blaw
[3] https://babyloss-awareness.org/
[4] https://www.tommys.org/baby-loss-support/pregnancy-loss-statistics

Notes for editors

- Baby Loss Awareness Week takes place annually from 9 to 15 October, bringing together bereaved families, healthcare professionals and organisations to remember babies who have died and raise awareness of pregnancy and baby loss.
- Baby Loss Awareness Week is led by Sands in collaboration with the Baby Loss Awareness Alliance, which brings together more than 140 pregnancy and baby loss organisations.
- Across the UK, approximately 13 babies die shortly before, during or soon after birth every day. In 2024, there were 4,477 stillbirths and neonatal deaths, comprising 2,552 stillbirths and 1,925 neonatal deaths. [1]
- Miscarriage is not routinely recorded in UK national statistics, meaning the full scale of pregnancy loss is difficult to quantify. Available evidence suggests that approximately 15 in every 100 pregnancies end in miscarriage.
- The ABPN recognises the important role of neonatal and children's nursing teams, alongside maternity, primary care, community and specialist services, in providing compassionate and individualised support to babies, children and families affected by pregnancy or baby loss.
- The Association of British Paediatric Nurses is the oldest children's nursing association in the world, established in 1938, with members spanning clinical practice, education, leadership and research.

Website: www.abpn-uk.com

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[1] https://www.sands.org.uk/blaw