

Liverpool Women's Hospital baby loss support worker in running for National Award

A Liverpool Women's Hospital bereavement support officer has been nominated for an Our Health Heroes Award in recognition of her work supporting parents and their families whose baby has died as a result of molar, ectopic, early/late miscarriage and stillbirth or just after birth.

34 year-old Sarah Martin from Liverpool is part of the Honeysuckle Bereavement Team, a service that cares for bereaved families following the loss of a baby from very early in pregnancy to just after birth. The Honeysuckle Team is a small team with Sarah and two clinical staff who provide support across the Trust. Sarah's role is very multifactorial and crucial to the functionality of the Honeysuckle Team.

Sarah not only strives every day to meet and exceed the team's ethos to ensure that positive memories are created by showing due diligence in all processes that ensure the last part of a baby's journey, however small, is carried out with compassion and dignity.

The death of a baby is a taboo subject; Sarah strives to break down this taboo subject by engaging with staff across the Trust. She supports all grades of staff with her expert knowledge of the legalities involved around bereavement services. Sarah actively listens, provides reassurance, guidance and comfort.

Sarah co-ordinates the annual Trust memorial service that takes place during Baby Loss Awareness Week. She goes above and beyond to ensure everything is seamless and cohesive across to ensure that all Honeysuckle families are remembered.

Liverpool Women's Patient Experience Matron Gillian Walker had this to say:

"Sarah is a unique, special person who is remembered by the people whose lives she touches. Sarah is honest, warm, open and more than anything: caring. Her energy and focus is second to none and an asset to our Trust. Sarah is humble and does not see how absolutely amazing she is."

Our Health Heroes Awards, delivered by <u>Skills for Health</u>, celebrates the thousands of unsung heroes working behind the scenes in the NHS. The Operational Support Worker of the Year Award 2022 is sponsored by UNISON. Cast your vote for Sarah before 4th February by visiting: https://bit.ly/3EZ0kXo

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