

## **Annual SPRING Steering Group Review**

Over the past 12 months, SPRING has continued to support parents and their families through the loss of a baby, as well as through subsequent 'rainbow' pregnancies.

We have continued to work closely with professionals – including the bereavement support midwives at St Mary's Maternity Hospital in Poole, the Early Pregnancy Unit at Poole and the Counselling Team - including the SPRING funded counsellors.

We have funded equipment over the last year which includes the procurement of Cuddle Cots, resources and services for the two SPRING Suites, and our new SPRING garden located by the SPRING suites at St Mary's Maternity Hospital which was opened in April 2019. This is a beautiful private space which families can use whilst staying in the SPRING Suites.

SPRING has continued to support learning and development for professionals – our bereavement midwives have been on specialist bereavement training days and conferences throughout the year. We also provided funding for some specialist in house training for our Bereavement Team facilitated by MOSAIC in January 2020. All of these courses ensure that the provision of care and support remains above and beyond what is provided in other areas.

Our three memorial events which we hold throughout the year provide a sense of community for bereaved families to come together and remember our precious babies. In this last year, we have organised the Wave of Light Event which marked the end of Baby Loss Awareness Week in October, the annual Christmas Event which was held in November at St Mary's Longfleet Church, and the Snowdrop Walk in February at Upton Country Park and House.

Throughout the year we have also held coffee mornings once a month, alongside monthly support meetings, both of which make such a difference to many of our bereaved families.

These events and meetings are made possible by many of our fundraisers – which include some of our bereaved parents, their families and friends, businesses, clubs and other organisations. Money has been raised in various ways, from baking, to table top sales, and climbing to Base Camp Mount Everest. Others have run 5K, 10K and even run and jogged along the beautiful Jurassic Coast line. We have also had small independent businesses such as Bee Happy Aromas and After the Storm Mobiles which have sold their products with a percentage of their sales donated to SPRING.

Over the past year, SPRING has also received support from Sunseeker, CARE UK, the Maximus Foundation, Bournemouth Round Table, Utility UK and Forum Jewellers (we were nominated as Forum's Charity of the Year). So on behalf of everyone involved with SPRING – we thank you so very very much for every penny raised and donated!! Each donation, however big or small, helps fund our services, activities and resources that make a real difference to the lives of bereaved families.

Since our last annual SPRING Steering Group Review, SPRING has had some changes. We have said a fond farewell to Janine Golding (SPRING Administrator) who is replaced by Zoe Wood, and Emma Johnston (SPRING Chairperson since September 2015) also stepped down from her role in February 2020, and was replaced by Emma Lynch.

We also have the addition of two newly acquired members to our Steering Group – Kat Hearn and Duncan Hook – both of which bring fresh ideas and experience to our group.

Our Steering Group Meetings have continued to be held throughout the last 12 months on a bi-monthly basis. For each meeting the SPRING Chairperson, bereaved parents, who are Steering Group Members, professionals and counselling representatives attend. Minutes taken at each session and along with this, four times a year, SPRING forwards a report to the Charity Funds Commission at Poole Hospital for discussion and an update.

Our main challenge to date has been due to Covid-19 and the restrictions and limitations in place as indicated by the Government's guidelines. As such, our one to one counselling sessions are being held via a confidential online platform called "Attend Anywhere" It is proving to be very successful in ensuring that our much needed counselling services continue during this difficult time. Our monthly coffee mornings are now being held virtually and are advertised through our social media platforms of Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Unfortunately, many of our supporters' events have been postponed due to Covid-19, however, we remain in close contact to event organisers regarding new dates for these events and we look forward to them being reinstated in the future when it is safe to do so. Our own remembrance events are currently on hold due to Covid-19 and the Steering Group will be holding meetings imminently to discuss alternatives which will be disseminated via our social media platforms once plans are confirmed.

**Finances:-**

Opening Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 - **£104,029.93**

Total donations received including Gift Aid - **£24,329.94**

Total Fundraising Expenditure - **£30,700.16**

Closing balance at 31 March - **£97,659.71**