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Cuddle Cots support parents of stillborn babies

Two new Cuddle Cots have been donated to the maternity ward at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Trust, so parents can spend longer with babies that have been stillborn.

The cots are specially designed to keep stillborn babies cool, meaning that parents can spend more time with their babies in the hospital's Forget Me Not bereavement suite or take their babies home with them for up to three days if they wish to.

The cots were donated to the RUH by Sarah Parsons, whose daughter Maggie Pearl Parsons was stillborn in 2015.

Following her daughter's death, Sarah and her husband Mark, from Blackburn, launched the Maggie's Stillbirth Legacy campaign, which raises funds for Cuddle Cots, gowns and blankets for hospitals across the country.

Sarah said: "The Cuddle Cots meant that we could have three days with Maggie after she died. It allowed us to spend time at home with her, reading and singing to her - time we wouldn't have otherwise had."

As well as donating the Cuddle Cots, Sarah also left a selection of blankets and gowns at the maternity unit which could be used for stillborn babies.

Bereavement Midwife Bex Walsh said: "Having a stillborn child is a devastating and traumatic experience for parents.

"The new Cuddle Cots will help parents spend time with their children in the privacy of their own home if they wish, and give them the opportunity to say a proper goodbye.

"We're very grateful to Sarah for such a generous donation, which will help parents to spend time with their child and hopefully go some way to helping with the grieving process."

You can find the Maggie's Stillbirth Legacy fundraising page on Facebook.

For further information and support contact Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity – www.sands.org.uk

Ends

Notes to Editor:

The World Health Organization has announced that 2020 will be the Year of the Nurse and Midwife to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. Our nurses and midwives are a big part of the RUH family and throughout the year we will be celebrating the work they do, going above and beyond every day to give our patients compassionate care.

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust provides acute treatment and care for a catchment population of around 500,000 people in Bath, and the surrounding towns and villages in North East Somerset and Western Wiltshire. The hospital provides healthcare to the population served by four Clinical Commissioning Groups: Bath & North East Somerset CCG, Wiltshire CCG, Somerset CCG and South Gloucestershire CCG.

The Trust provides 759 beds and a comprehensive range of acute services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

In 2015 The Royal United Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust acquired the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) NHS Foundation Trust. The RNHRD treats patients from across the country offering services in rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME, cancer related fatigue and fatigue linked to other long term conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

The RUH is changing - we have an exciting programme of redevelopment underway transforming our site and further improving the services we provide. The Trust has opened the purpose-built RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre and is now working towards the new Dyson Cancer Centre. For more details visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit_for_the_future

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk