

Press statement

Tuesday July 6

Twins Trust welcomes recommendations in the Health and Social Care Committee Report: Safety of Maternity Services which we submitted evidence to.

It is unfortunate that the committee were unable to take into account the shocking findings from the MBRRACE Perinatal Confidential Enquiry into stillbirths and neonatal baby deaths in twin pregnancies which was published in January 2021.

Twins are twice as likely to be stillborn and are 4.3 times more likely to die as newborns compared with babies in pregnancies with one baby.

Clinical experts in multiple pregnancy looked at a random sample of UK-wide twin pregnancies which sadly involved at least one fetal loss, stillbirth or neonatal death. Fifty twin pregnancies and 80 baby deaths were reviewed from 2017.

They found that 54% of deaths may have been preventable with better care.

Multiple pregnancies account for 1.6% of all pregnancies but they make up:

- 5.6% of all stillbirths
- 9.9% of all neonatal deaths
- 10-15% of all neonatal admissions.

Nikki Roberts, acting CEO of Twins Trust, said: "We welcome this new Government funding to improve maternity safety.

"Twins Trust has been campaigning and working to improve care for more than five years and <u>published a report</u> in April 2019 that provided evidence which showed that following NICE guidelines saves babies lives and saves money.

"Twins Trust has a process to achieve this and despite receiving no funding since April 2019 we've continued to work with units to <u>improve outcomes</u> and could do so much more if funding was forthcoming.

"We will continue to work with all parties to help ensure women expecting multiples receive the correct care pre and postnatally which we know, through our <u>T-MEP programme</u>, leads to improved outcomes."

Notes to Journalists

For further information on multiple births please contact Alyson Chorley <u>alysonchorley@twinstrust.org</u> or <u>pressoffice@twinstrust.org</u> call 01252 332344 / 07791 383494.

Twins Trust is the only UK-wide charity dedicated to improving the lives and wellbeing of families with twins, triplets or more. Representing 20,000 members and 100 local clubs in the UK, Twins Trust provides help and support to both parents and professionals to meet the unique challenges faced by multiple birth families. We invest in research to save lives, change lives and create better futures for multiple birth families. We also run a unique quality improvement project at Maternity Units to encourage and help with adherence to NICE QS46.

For further information, please visit www.twinstrust.org

- 1. Follow us on: Twitter/Facebook/Insta @twinstrust
- 2. For confidential and emotional support for families with multiples, please call Twinline which is staffed by trained volunteers that are parents of multiples and can offer support on sleeping, feeding, crying, behaviour, discipline, school issues or special needs. It is free to call on 0800 138 0509 and is open Monday to Friday from 10am–1pm and from 7pm–10pm.