**Biography:**

Marc is Head of Bereavement Care & Hospital Liaison at Sands and has led the National Bereavement Care Pathway since 2017.

The NBCP vision is that regardless of circumstance, location or gestation of loss, all those affected by pregnancy loss or the death of a baby should receive high quality compassionate, sensitive and individualised bereavement care.

The pathway, centred around 9 standards, provides guidance, resources and online training at [www.nbcpathway.org.uk](http://www.nbcpathway.org.uk/) and [www.nbcpscotland.org.uk](http://www.nbcpscotland.org.uk/)

The programme was piloted in 11 NHS England sites but has now been rolled in over 100, along with a number of Early Adopter boards in Scotland.

Marc collaborates with bereaved parents and partners in the charity sector and healthcare professions to ensure that the programme is evidence-based, regularly updated and parent- centred.

Marc has led projects in the private, public and voluntary sector for 25 years and enjoys a busy family life, running, being a school governor and supporting local community projects.

**Abstract**

The quality and consistency of bereavement care received by women and families varies enormously throughout the UK. For example, where some Trusts and Boards offer the opportunity of making memories, using a dedicated bereavement suite, receiving care from specialist staff and other aspects of bereavement care, many do not. This inconsistency is felt across the range of different experiences of pregnancy and baby loss – miscarriage, ToPFA, stillbirth, neonatal death and SUDI – and all five are within the scope of the project.

As a result of the work of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Baby Loss, the National Bereavement Care Pathway (NBCP) for Pregnancy and Baby Loss was launched in 2017 by a Core Group of partners, led by Sands working collaboratively with other Baby Loss charities, Royal Colleges and other organisations.

An independent research team at Fiveways published their reports on the effectiveness of the NBCP in 2019. These can be found at [www.nbcpathway.org.uk/evaluation](http://www.nbcpathway.org.uk/evaluation). These reflected positively on the impact of the programme both for professionals, and more importantly for parents, and led to the roll out programme now in full swing.

As of April 2023, 90% of NHS England hospital Trusts have adopted the NBCP, with all remaining trusts having expressed their formal interest in the programme. Early Adopter boards are piloting the programme in Scotland ahead of a national roll out at the end of 2023/24. The [www.nbcpathway.org.uk](http://www.nbcpathway.org.uk/) and [www.nbcpscotland.org.uk](http://www.nbcpscotland.org.uk/) websites contain lots of relevant information and links to training, including the popular e-learning for healthcare module on bereavement care <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/national-bereavement-care-pathway/> .

Marc’s presentation will focus on the lessons learned through the programme to date from parents and professionals, promote the nine bereavement care standards around which the programme has been developed, and highlight the need to ensure parents are involved in review of their baby’s death.