



Participant Information Sheet: Forum Theatre and evaluation

Study Title: Exploring Priorities for Practice for fathers following baby loss

This project has been reviewed by, and received a favourable opinion from, The Open University Human Research Ethics Committee, reference HREC/0689 /Jones.

Dear Participant,

I am inviting you to take part in a forum theatre which will explore study about exploring fathers experience of the support and care they have received following miscarriage, stillbirth and neonatal death in a clinical or other setting. The study is being carried out by The Open University. Our aim in facilitating a forum theatre is to share anonymised experiences as reported by bereaved fathers about the care and support they have received follow the loss of a baby. We would also like to explore ways in which health professionals provide support to fathers following baby loss.

Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why the forum theatre is taking place as part of a study and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

Yours sincerely,

...**Kerry Jones**.....

What would taking part involve?

We would like to invite you to a forum theatre and to hear about your experiences of providing care. The forum will start with a play based on real experiences as reported by bereaved fathers. Then there will be a chance for you to for you to discuss the content and contribute ideas to improving the support provided to fathers. A member of the research team will take notes of about some of the ways support for fathers can be provided. All information will be anonymised.

The forum theatre which will take place at The Studio in Birmingham on 21st March 2025, 12-5 pm which will require registration to attend. The forum is free of charge and there will be lunch at the start and refreshments throughout the afternoon.

There will also be an evaluation form at the end of the event that we will invite you to complete about your thoughts about the forum theatre. and how it might influence your practice. You are under no obligation to complete this.

With your consent, we will also send out an evaluation form three months after the event and invite you to fill this in. This is to gather information about some of the ways the forum theatre has influenced your practice in support of perinatally bereaved men.

The following section describes the information we would like to obtain from the forum theatre:

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

By taking part, you will hear how fathers who have experienced loss would like to be supported. Equally, from the research we will have a better understanding of the support needed to provide such care.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

We appreciate that perinatal loss is a sensitive subject, and reflecting on providing care and support to bereaved parents can be distressing. Experienced researchers will be on hand to support you at the event. You can take time out of the theatre forum or leave any time you wish.

How will the data I provide be used?

The information gathered in the form of observations notes about ways to provide bereavement support and care for fathers during the forum theatre will remain confidential and anonymised. The information gathered will be analysed to help us write up our evaluation of the forum theatre. All the information gathered will be anonymised so that all identifiable information will be removed.

Any personal details provided to The Open University research team during the consent process such as names or emails will be securely held. The Open University will store a digitised copy of the consent form and evaluation data for ten years. It will then be securely destroyed.

Anonymised information gathered from the theatre forum, an evaluation of the forum theatre and three months forum theatre evaluation will be stored in a password protected file on the Open University server. The transcriptions from recordings will be stored electronically for 10 years after which point it will be destroyed. Your data and the information you share with the researchers will be treated confidentially.

All the information you provide will be used for the purpose outlined only. Following completion of the study, anonymised data in the form of findings will be shared within the research team (Kerry Jones, Martin Robb, Sam Murphy and Ben Hughes) for the purposes of informing future funding bids and to for the research team to write publications in academic journals. No identifying information that links to you personally or to anyone else you talk about in the forum theatre or evaluation forms will be used and any quotes used will be anonymous.

Withdrawing your involvement in the forum and evaluation

Your participation in this forum theatre is entirely voluntary and you may leave at any time. You can also request to withdraw your personal information, or participation in the evaluation we send out three months after the forum theatre without any reason by 8th April, 2025 by contacting by contacting Kerry Jones: Kerry.jones@open.ac.uk

How do I take part?

You can register to take part in the forum theatre by clicking on the link to the Eventbrite page where you can read the participation information sheet and sign the consent form. -and returning this along with the 'contacts form' by email to Kerry Jones. Kerry.jones@open.ac.uk

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet and for considering participation in the forum theatre and evaluation as part of this study.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

Dr Kerry Jones (Primary Investigator) Kerry.Jones@open.ac.uk or telephone [01908 652869](tel:01908652869)

The study is funded by The Open University. If you would like to speak to someone independent of this project, please contact Associate Dean of Research: Liz Tilly. She can be contacted via email Elizabeth.Tilly@open.ac.uk