

# News Release

19 January 2011

## Learning from the death of a child

Dorset families are being invited to take part in a project which aims to improve the services and support relatives receive following the death of a child.

Dorset County Hospital and Poole Hospital are leading the 'Piecing it Together' project, which will culminate in a free learning event being held in February, bringing together families, professionals, volunteers and community groups to develop skills and knowledge.

Lead Nurse for Paediatrics at Dorset County Hospital Allison Ryder said: "The death of a child is a devastating experience that has a permanent impact on everyone involved.

"We would like to get in touch with people who have been affected by the death of a child or young person and would be willing to share their experience or contribute to a learning event being held across Dorset.

"A key part of learning will be the contribution from anyone who has experienced the death of a child or young person under 21. We are appealing for parents, siblings, grandparents, or friends to work with us to help us understand and learn from their experience.

"We understand that this will be a very personal experience and everyone will feel able to contribute in different ways. We would welcome any type of contribution – this could be a letter, poem, picture, blog, video, discussion group or even a presentation.

"People can choose to contribute anonymously if they would prefer. We welcome any feedback that people want to share about any aspect of the care their family received."

Anyone who is interested in taking part or wishes to talk with confidentially and anonymity should call Allison Ryder on 01305 254708 or Julie Tilsed on 01305 254263.

**ENDS**

**For more information please contact Communications Manager Susie Palmer on 01305 254683, [susie.palmer@dchft.nhs.uk](mailto:susie.palmer@dchft.nhs.uk) or Allison Ryder on 01305 254708.**