I am writing to you as a constituent to ask you to write to the Government and our local health services to find out what steps they are taking to ensure that all parents who experience pregnancy and baby loss and need specialist psychological support can access it.

The Baby Loss Awareness Week Alliance have discovered that 86% of Health Boards do not commission specialist therapies for parents who experience a psychiatric illness after pregnancy loss or the death of their baby. The *Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Bereaved parents falling through the gaps in mental health care* report also reveals that 60% of bereaved parents felt they needed specialist psychological support for their mental health, but were not able to access it on the NHS.

The report recommends the Government:

1. undertakes a review of current provision including an evaluation of models of best practice, involving parents and professionals
2. develops quality standards and national guidance to support those planning, funding and delivery of specialist psychological support services for bereaved parents
3. ensures that relevant professionals across health services receive mandatory training in the identification of psychiatric illness in parents who have experienced pregnancy and baby loss
4. provides guidance to support local services to effectively assess the psychological support needs of bereaved parents, and develop referral pathways to meet those needs.

And Commissioners:

1. allocate sufficient resources for the provision of specialist psychological support for bereaved families based on an assessment of their needs
2. ensure that high quality, specialist services are in place for bereaved parents when they need them
3. incentivise local services to show how they are meeting the specific needs of this small, but vulnerable group through their inclusion in local data sets and performance measures
4. provide clear referral pathways to high quality, effective and evidence-based specialist psychological support.

You can download the full report and a briefing for Scotland here - bit.ly/2Vcowjw

I would be most grateful if you could write to Jeane Freeman MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport asking her to make this a priority and our local Health Board to find out how this support is offered in our area.

I look forward to hearing from you.