

**Betty Mansell Ward, Maternity Tri
& Women's Diagnostics Unit**

Lift D



**Neonatal
Intensive Care**



For Policy Makers and Researchers

Our evidence and lived-experience voices drive systemic change by improving the policies which guide neonatal care. We support policymakers to tackle barriers such as the financial costs of having a baby in neonatal care.

Our work with researchers helps improve their work through the inclusion of diverse parents and carers' experiences.

Neonatal Care Leave & Pay now law – helping 60,000 parents annually. We support policymakers to tackle barriers such as the financial costs of having a baby in neonatal care including, notably, Neonatal Care Leave and Pay becoming law in 2025 following years of Bliss campaigning.

3 community listening events deepening our understanding of health inequality in order for us to provide the support and resources needed.

2,366 people joined our digital involvement polls & surveys

Input to 25 neonatal research projects in 2024-25

"I hope this new leave gives parents time to navigate an incredibly stressful period." – Peter, neonatal dad

Families Kept Apart: Overnight accommodation for parents

In 2024, we launched a campaign *Families Kept Apart* across England, Scotland and Wales to push the Government to commit to investment needed to support parents to stay overnight with their baby in neonatal care. The campaign was featured on [ITV](#) and [BBC News](#).

As we approached the official start of the change in employment law to reflect the new NCLP Act, we hosted a celebratory event in Westminster to raise Bliss' priority issues, and to build new relationships and strengthen existing ones.

The event was attended by eighty passionate individuals including Parliamentarians, healthcare professionals, neonatal parents and Bliss' community partners – and included speeches from Oti Mabuse, Lady Sarra Hoy, Dr Ngozi Edi-Osagie and Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP.

Speaking of her support for Bliss' work, Oti said: "For us as parents it was so hard for the eight weeks she was in hospital – she was so tiny and so sick, and everything was overwhelming and really scary. We didn't get to hold our daughter for almost a week, and the whole experience is completely different to what you are expecting."