



eastendlife

NEWS FROM TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL AND YOUR COMMUNITY



Push for funds

Bliss Buggy Push will help raise funds for the special care baby charity.



Specialist care for special babies

Bliss provides training and support for doctors and nurses, and funds family-centred care nurses in hospitals and research to improve the care of babies like Nathan (left, with baby Samuel).

WWW.BLISS.ORG.UK

News

Giving back to Bliss

BY STAFF REPORTER

A POPLAR woman whose son was born four months early, weighing less than a bag of sugar, is taking part in a sponsored pram push to raise money for a special care baby charity.

Michaela Southworth, 36, will be pushing her children's pram in the Bliss 5km Buggy Push in Regent's Park on Saturday, May 25, spurred on by the memory of the care her son Nathan received.

He was born at 24 weeks weighing 1lb 6oz (624g) and because the Royal London Hospital – or any hospitals across London – did not have an intensive care cot available, the family had to be transferred nearly 50 miles away to Luton.

Nathan was put on a ventilator for nine weeks, suffered bleeding on the brain, and was so sick at one stage that Michaela and her husband Darren were asked to sign a 'Do not resuscitate' form.



Michaela and Darren Southworth with Nathan (right) and Samuel

But Nathan pulled through and was allowed home after five months in hospital. Now four years old, he has a few problems but is generally healthy and has started school at Cyril Jackson nursery. He also has a little brother, Samuel, who is aged one.

"It is one of the worst things you can go through, but Bliss was there to give emotional support, offering a listening ear

and simple written advice," said Michaela, who lives in Montague Place.

"I am taking part in the buggy push and have started volunteering for Bliss as I would like to give something back to the charity that helped us so much."

Every year around 80,000 babies are born prematurely or sick in the UK and are in need of specialist hospital care.

Bliss is a charity helping to give such babies the best chance of survival and of reaching their full potential, as well as providing support to their families.

The 2013 race is the fourth Bliss Buggy Push and will start at 11am.

Visit www.bliss.org.uk or call 7378 1122. To sponsor Michaela go to www.justgiving.com/MichaelaSouthworth2013



MICHAELA has also started a new Bliss Family Group in Whitechapel. Little Miracles runs every Tuesday from 11am-12.30pm in term-time at the Jagonari Centre, 183-185 Whitechapel Road, E1. Email michaela@s2design.co.uk There is also a sister club for babies still in hospital called the Bliss Cake Club in the parents' room at the Royal London Hospital neonatal unit. For news and events about the Cake Club go to www.facebook.com/groups/207545732716514/ Pictured: Victoria (left), Michaela, Samuel and Hanna at Little Miracles.