

“I’m a SURVIVOR!”

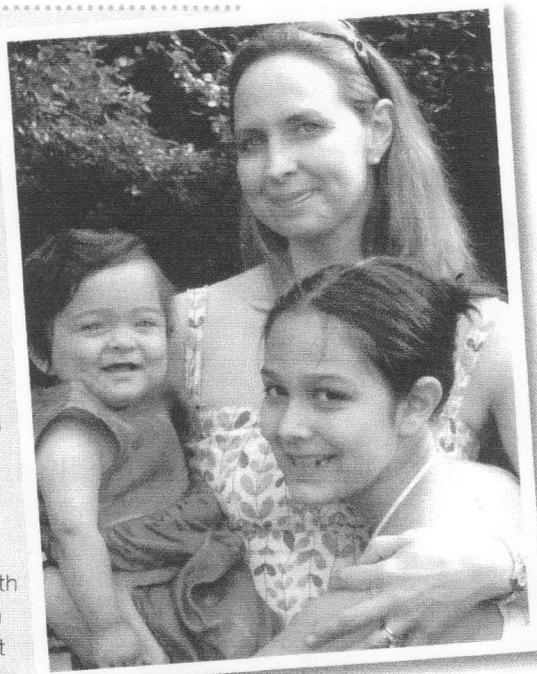
All new parents deserve medals for stamina and endurance, but these inspirational women have suffered more than most and are still smiling

“I had another baby against all the odds”

“After Emily’s birth, I developed Asherman’s syndrome caused by a D&C [a dilation of the cervix followed by removal of tissue from the uterus] to remove a retained placenta. It scarred my uterus and I was told that I couldn’t have any more children. I went to a specialist, who performed a number of surgeries on my womb to clear scar tissue, and, after eight years of trying for another baby, I fell pregnant. Joy was followed by despair, though, when I went into preterm labour at 23 weeks, giving birth at 25 weeks. Jasmine spent four and a half months in hospital and underwent five brain surgeries. She’s a miracle.

She survived against the odds and is now home and doing well. She proves that women with Asherman’s can have a baby if they get it diagnosed and get the right treatment.”

Michaela Khatib, 38, from Surrey, mum to Emily 9, and Jasmine, 8 months



“I’ll will beat PND second time round”

“After my daughter was born, I suffered from severe postnatal depression (PND). I spent every evening in tears, pushed my partner away and wouldn’t let him help with the baby. I isolated myself and didn’t go to mother and baby groups. Bizarrely, it took falling pregnant again to turn me around and this time I’m determined to do things differently. I’m getting my partner involved in everything from the beginning and we’ve put lots of coping strategies in place. Hopefully this time things will run more smoothly but, if the PND does strike again, I’ll know where to turn for help, and most importantly, I know it can be beaten **Charlotte Read, 23, from Wiltshire, mum to Jessica Faith, 22 months, and 29 weeks pregnant**

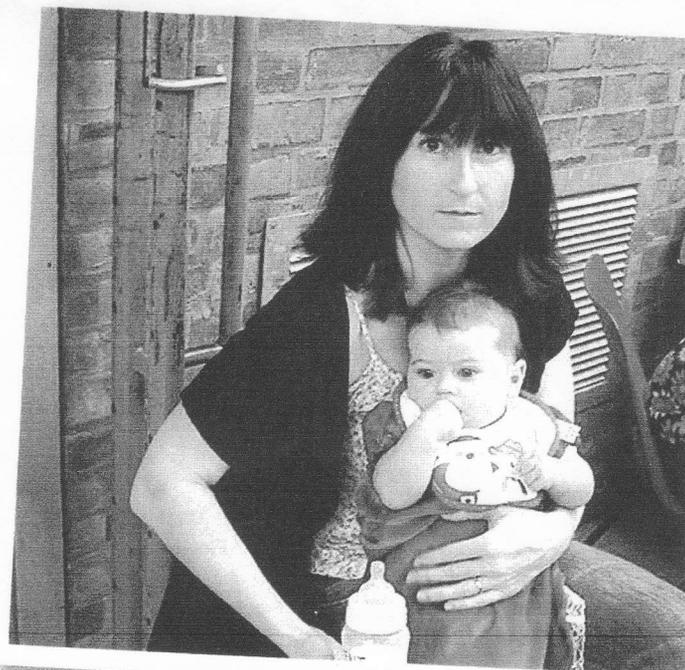
“I GOT OVER STILLBORN HEARTACHE”

“Our daughter, Honey, was stillborn on the 16 May 2007, aged 36 weeks and 6 days. Just two days before, I’d felt her last kicks. Afterwards I went through some incredibly low times where all I did was cry for hours.

My second pregnancy was incredibly stressful as a result but, when Kaysie Blossom was born, I could hardly believe it: she was here and breathing and she was ours to keep.

Sometimes it’s bittersweet because everything our daughter does reminds us of Honey. Kaysie Blossom can never replace Honey, nor would I want her to, but she is our sunshine after the storm and, with her help, we’re beginning to heal, and learning to smile once again.”

Natasha Adams, from London, mum to Kaysie Blossom, 8 weeks



FEATURE: CATHERINE BRUTON