

# Provision of Professional & Peer support for Young people living with Mesothelioma

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Following a pattern of calls to the Mesothelioma UK National Support Line, in 2021 a decision was taken to establish a virtual support group for patients under 55 years of age. The group meets virtually each month via the online platform, Zoom

*"I wish that there had been some way of us contacting other younger people dealing with a mesothelioma diagnosis – it was a lonely journey"*

Young Widow whose husband sadly died from Mesothelioma at **just 33 years old**

*" I think we have a slightly different experience of terminal illness and in need of different advice than those in the 70-80 age bracket"*

Natalie Woodward – diagnosed with Mesothelioma **aged just 34**

*"I really wish that we had a young patient group when I was first diagnosed and wanted to ask questions. But being a part of the group now listening and offering advice has been one of the best things I could have done for other mesothelioma patients."*

Paul Cowley, Husband with an 11-year-old Son – living with Mesothelioma **aged just 44 years**



## Family members also see the benefit of the group



*"As a family we can comfort my Mam and be there when she needs us, but we don't understand what she goes through like other patients do. This group gives us a warm feeling that she has people around her who genuinely understand"*

Liv, Lily and Maddy, daughters of Helen Bone, Wife, Mother, Nurse & Mesothelioma patient **aged just 40**



*"Seeing my wife being able to share her experience as a younger Mesothelioma patient face to face with others who share her experiences and worries is very reassuring to me as a Husband"*

Gonzalo – a young Husband whose Wife is a regular attendee at our Youngers Support Group



## Next Steps

Members of the group have expressed a wish to have a forum where they can maintain contact in-between monthly meetings to offer each other support

- Using an online messaging application ( e.g., WhatsApp )
- Peer led support
- A Mesothelioma UK Clinical Nurse Specialist would be a member of the group for clinical advice or psychological support if needed.

