



# PATIENT EXPERIENCE

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- February 2000 Colin my son visited the doctor complaining of chest pains.
- Doctor sent him away saying a young lad like him doesn't suffer heart problems, its probably muscular growing pains.
- Colin left feeling embarrassed for making a fuss about nothing.

# MY SON COLIN HANKIN





# MY SON





- She showed me an article about Anne Jolly from the cardiac charity SADS UK.
- At last I felt hopeful that I had a name for the condition which robbed me of my son.
- After I got home I phoned Anne immediately, we chatted for a long time, our stories where so similar as she too had lost her 16 year old son Ashley in this way.
- She gave me good advice and suggested I contact my GP to be referred for further tests, for myself and my daughter.



- At the time I had a 15 year old daughter sleeping with the light on so afraid to go to sleep in case she died too and I, as her mother, couldn't reassure her as I didn't know either, so we were both living in fear.
- It took 6 months before we had an ecg or echocardiogram and that was only after a very traumatic phone call and me at the end of my tether before an appointment was made.
- It was a further 12 months after Colin's death before my daughter was offered the 24 hour heart monitor; that was after I had fundraised and donated it to my doctors surgery.

# MY DAUGHTER



# INQUEST

- We had the Inquest in March 2001, the outcome was that Colin had died of natural causes. I left thinking what is natural about a young 18 year old lad going to bed one night and not waking up.
- A week after the Inquest I received a phone call from the police to arrange a visit to gather evidence for the Inquest, when they knew we had already had it, they said oh well we don't need to bother then.
- Again I felt let down by another faceless person just doing their job.



- In the early days of my grief I kept a diary to enable me to make sense of what had happened. People kept asking me how I felt and I would reply fine, when I really wasn't. My diary was published in book form 'Living without Colin'.
- Funds from sales were donated to **SADS UK**.
- In these tragic circumstances, what people want and need the most is to be listened to. I cannot emphasize enough the need for compassionate charities like **SADS UK**.

# CONCLUSION

- I am pleased to say that services have improved since I lost my son, but young lives are still being lost so there is still room for improvement.
- In the future I would like to see the authorities and charities working together to help and support families affected by SADS.
- Like I said before what people want and need is someone to listen to them ,so thank you for listening to me today.
- THANK YOU



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