

## **Service Development and Best Practice Guidelines for Bereavement Care for Children**

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<b>Project staff:</b>	Alison Penny, Main Contact

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### **Themes**

NCB promotes the voices, interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Current and planned work focuses on the six strategic themes. This project relates to the following themes:

### **NCB Themes**

- promoting participation and young citizenship;
  - communicating positive attitudes and images;
  - improving social and economic opportunities;
  - **enhancing health and well-being;**
  - celebrating diversity, valuing difference;
  - developing safe and positive environments;
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### **Project summary**

The Childhood Bereavement Network (CBN) is a national federation of organisations and individuals who work in various settings with bereaved children, their families and other caregivers. It was established in 1998 with the involvement and support of all the major bereavement care providers in the UK and currently has 240 members (September 2002). Contact with these members and completion of a mapping exercise of 'open access' services (funded by CYPFU) has given the CBN a unique overview of service provision for bereaved children.

The CBN has also undertaken extensive consultation work with its members and other interested organisations and individuals at regional meetings, national conferences and other training events. An example of this work was the development of a set of Guidelines

for Best Practice which represented a significant achievement in terms of securing consensus in the field: there were no previous nationally agreed guidelines in this area of practice.

The CBN has now received three years' funding from the Community Fund to build on its experience and knowledge of sustainable service development, its model of consultation and joint-working and its influential position as the independent umbrella body in the field.

#### Aims

The overall aims of the project are to work in partnership and consultation with the CBN membership and other national and local stakeholders including service users to:

Improve access for bereaved children, their parents and other caregivers throughout England to a wide range of high quality information, guidance and support, including counselling.

Develop a multi-faceted framework for professional development and 'best practice', which will enable and encourage the provision of specialised children's bereavement support services in England.

#### Objectives

##### Service Development

The CBN will run a campaign to promote new service development in specific areas highlighted by its mapping exercise of 2002 which identified gaps in service provision, both geographically and in types of service. Regional meetings will be held annually in 10 areas to identify and then provide direct focussed support to groups of individuals and organisations interested in developing new services. At the end of the project there will be an increased number and range of bereavement services available and a resource pack for those developing new services.

##### Guidelines for Best Practice

The CBN will host annual focus groups of members in 10 areas to expand the Guidelines of Best Practice, which currently provide a model framework for service delivery and are endorsed by all Network members as a criterion of their membership. Members will be asked to identify their priorities within the four practice areas of Equality; Safety; Practice Context; and Quality and Accountability and to contribute to their expansion and dissemination. The CBN will seek funding for the development and implementation of a quality assurance tool for children's bereavement support services - based on PQASSO.

##### Awareness Raising

In partnership with its members, the CBN will develop its website, Directory, Bulletin, and Information Papers to increase awareness of the needs of bereaved children and of the range of services available to them. Audiences will include potential service users, professional/volunteer communities, policy makers and the general public.

##### Policy Work

The CBN will work to ensure common policy development so that childhood bereavement is included in all key initiatives that affect children for example, Choice Protects, Children at Risk, NHSS, Community Fund and Connexions.

The project will be independently evaluated to monitor and measure its impact on the various beneficiaries.

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**For more information please contact**

Alison Penny  
National Children's Bureau  
8 Wakley Street  
London  
EC1V 7QE

e-mail: [apenny@ncb.org.uk](mailto:apenny@ncb.org.uk)