

## **Developing a Strategy for Evaluating UK childhood bereavement services**

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<b>Funded by:</b>	The Clara E Burgess Charity
<b>Duration:</b>	Nov 2006 - Oct 2007
<b>Project staff:</b>	Alison Penny, Main Contact
<b>Project partners:</b>	University of Gloucestershire (lead partner)

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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**

This project arises out of the research work, funded earlier by the Clara Burgess Charity, that identified for the first time the diverse range, type and interventions of UK services, as well as the benefits that bereaved children and their parents gained from using them.

A key finding was that service evaluation has become increasingly urgent, arising from an increasing demand from service funders and increasingly from statutory agencies who refer to them, to justify themselves and the value of what they do.

There are however a number of difficulties in evaluating services. Firstly, childhood bereavement occurs in a developmental phase and it a 'normal' life event with its own

course, and this makes it difficult to 'prove' the value of service interventions. Secondly, difficulties arise out of some approaches to evaluation that do not take account of the diversity of human experience, the diversity of services, and the different types of interventions.

As a result, appropriate evaluation needs to be identified. This Phase 1 project will investigate the issues that surround evaluation, and identify what aspects of service interventions, processes and facilities need to be evaluated, and how these could be achieved. This will set the agenda for a second phase: the development of evaluative instruments, datasets and research projects.

**Main beneficiaries/target audiences**

Childhood bereavement services

Bereaved families and professional users of childhood bereavement services

Funders of childhood bereavement services

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