

# Grief Matters for Children manifesto [draft]

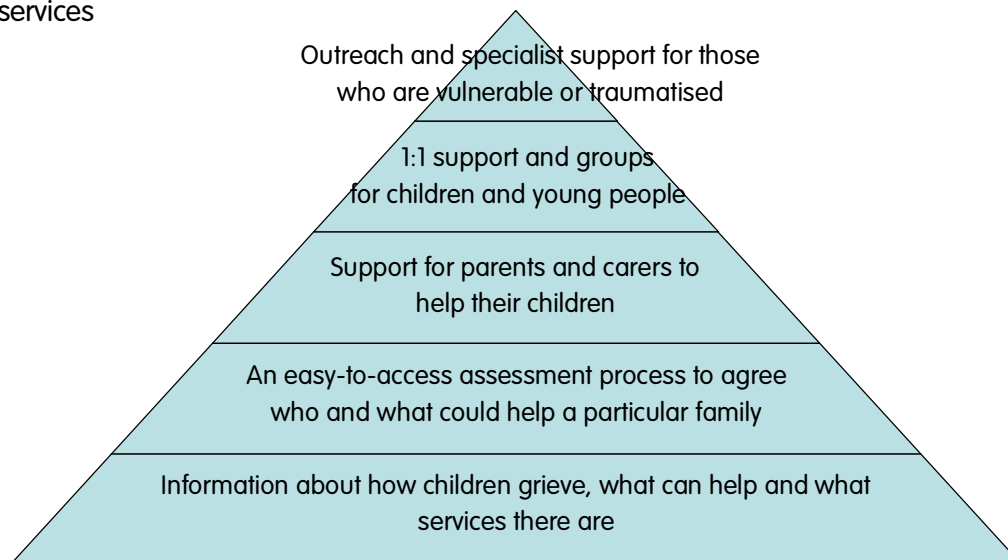
Around 1 in 28 children and young people in school today know what it's like when a parent, brother or sister has died – because it's happened to them. Others have faced the death of someone else important such as a grandparent or teacher, and about 1 in 16 have had a friend who has died<sup>1</sup>.

The death of someone close brings lots of changes and challenges, and can be very hard to deal with. Some children get excellent help from their family, friends, schools and support services, but others don't get the support they want or need.

The Childhood Bereavement Network brings together people who work with children and young people when someone special has died. Our *Grief Matters for Children* campaign wants to make sure that all bereaved children, young people and their families can get good support easily, wherever they live and however their special person has died.

In each local area, the local authority and primary care trust<sup>2</sup> should work with other services to make sure

- they know how many children and young people have been bereaved of a parent or carer, brother or sister that year, and what services they need
- adults who work with children and young people can get training and support to understand how they might help someone who has been bereaved
- children, young people and their families experiencing the death of someone close can get good services



**Figure 1: What good provision for bereaved children looks like**

To play their part, each school should have

- sensitive people and ways of doing things that provide support and information for pupils and staff when someone has died
- opportunities to learn about death and bereavement as part of life.

<sup>1</sup> These figures came from a study done by the Office of National Statistics (Green et al 2004)

<sup>2</sup> The local authority and primary care trust are responsible for children's services and health