

Grief Matters for Children

Funded by: The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund

Duration: Apr 2006 - Apr 2009

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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) will work with its subscribers and the departments and fora of NCB to raise awareness and generate support for bereaved children, young people and their families among the general public and in mainstream children's services such as schools, young offender institutions and care settings.

Aims of the project

To lead a programme of media, PR and policy work to increase awareness and generate cross-sector support for bereaved children, their families and other caregivers.

To engage and lobby policy makers, parliamentarians, national charities, professional bodies and institutions to ensure that the needs of bereaved children and young people are integrated and embedded into all relevant policy initiatives and guidance.

To run two pilots to develop creative and replicable models of bereavement support for children and young people looked after and in custody, to include participation/consultation work, and recommendations for future development and funding.

To work across NCB and the fora and councils to ensure that bereavement is integrated and embedded as a major life issue for children into all our work.

To disseminate learning and influence changes in practice and policy via NCB members and members of the various fora and councils, to explore and develop opportunities for joint work.

To achieve widespread dissemination of learning from the project, to include: intensive media liaison and policy work; a set of conferences (four in each year); circulation to CBN and NCB membership, networks and other contacts; publications, policy briefings and other resources based on identified need. Funding will be sought to develop additional publications to those budgeted for in the proposal, according to identified need.

To secure funding for continuation work, within the context of the CBN 10 year strategic plan.

Our work will be targeted to support bereaved children and young people in schools (year one); looked after by the local authority (year two); in custody (year three).

Project outcomes

The needs of bereaved children and young people looked after and in secure settings are identified, together with the training and support needs of those working with them. Recommendations are made for further development work (year one only)

New policy and practice development and implementation reflects increased awareness and support for bereaved children and young people, their families and other caregivers, including professionals.

Public awareness is raised and support generated for bereaved children and young people, their families and other caregivers, including professionals.

Key individuals - policy makers, chief executives of national charities, trade unions and professional associations, business leaders etc. - are more aware and actively support policy and practice development and implementation to meet the needs of bereaved children and young people.

Bereavement and loss are acknowledged in NCB strategic planning and policy as key life-issues for children and young people.

The confidence and capacity of the children's workforce to respond to the needs of all bereaved children and young people is enhanced and extended.

Increased information, guidance and support is available to bereaved children and young people, their families and other caregivers, including the vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Funding is committed from statutory and other sources for further project work as identified from the pilot work in care and secure settings, cross-NCB activity and elsewhere.

Project outputs

A set of national conferences.

Communications strategy.

A series of publications and policy briefings.

Reports from pilots in year one on key learning and outcomes.

End of project evaluation report.

Main beneficiaries/target audiences

Professionals working generally with children and young people - both in the target settings and beyond - who will encounter bereaved children as part of their work.

Bereaved children, young people and their families, who we hope will be better understood and supported by professionals and by the general public.

For more information please contact

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