

Bereavement support in Morecambe Bay

The death of a loved one can be among the most difficult moments that any of us will face in our lives, and it often falls on those closest to the deceased and grieving the most to organise the funeral.

The COVID pandemic has affected so much of the normalities of life. The way we die, the way we hold a funeral and the way we grieve have all been affected, meaning that for some, the usual events to mark and manage the loss of a loved one changed or did not happen. It is therefore, so much more important that we are all able to access bereavement support at a time and level that is right for each one of us as an individual.

The government have produced a leaflet, which shares important information to help bereaved families; friends or next of kin make important decisions during this national emergency and guides you to the extra help and support that is available. www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-the-bereaved

Across Morecambe Bay there are many organisations that offer bereavement support and it is important that following a death we are able to signpost and guide people for appropriate help.

Level 1: General support that everyone can access

The first level of bereavement support represents general support and information. Most people who experience loss will only require first-level support, which involves providing people with information on the grieving process, practical help with tasks, and social support. Family, friends, and colleagues will provide much of this support. For those offering support, this is a time of “watchful waiting;” active listening; reminding people that grief is normal; exploring the emotions they may feel, the person’s thoughts about that and how everyday behaviour or skills might be affected. This level of support would also include community groups, churches and religious and spiritual organizations (all faiths and none), hospital and hospice bereavement teams, online forums and national support.

Local support:

Age UK Lancashire : www.ageuk.org.uk/lancashire/about-us/news/bereavement-support/

Amparo support following suicide (Lancashire): Tel. 0330 088 9255 listening-ear.co.uk/amparo/

Bluebell (South Cumbria): Provide free support for people experiencing grief associated with loss during pregnancy, the death of a baby, child or young person Tel. 07516556081 or 07849400315 www.bluebell.org.uk/

Cancer Care: Tel. 03330 150 628 www.cancercare.org.uk/BereavementLeaflet

Child Bereavement UK Cumbria Providing bereavement support to children and families. Face to face in Kendal and Carlisle, and elsewhere available by telephone, video and instant messenger. Tel. 0800 02 888 40

Email: northsupport@childbereavementuk.org www.childbereavementuk.org/

Churches together in Cumbria (CTiC): Signposting to a church or minister

<https://www.churchestogethercumbria.org.uk/>

Churches Together Lancaster: Signposting to a church or minister across North Lancashire

jane@newlifelancaster.org.uk <https://together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/lancaster/>

Cornerstone Bereavement support: 1:2:1 and group support at Cornerstone Lancaster Tel. 01524 840027

Email: simoncornerstonecafe@gmail.com

Cruse Bereavement Care Cumbria: Tel. 0300 600 3434 www.crusecumbria.org.uk/

Cruse Bereavement Care Lancashire: Tel. 01772 433645 www.cruselancashire.org.uk/

Cumbria County Council: <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/publichealth/bereavement.asp>

Every Life Matters (Cumbria): Support for people bereaved by suicide: www.every-life-matters.org.uk/affected-by-suicide/

Grief Chat: Tel. <https://griefchat.co.uk/chat/>

Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria: www.healthierlsc.co.uk/suicide/bereaved-suicide
Samaritans (Furness and South Lakes): www.samaritans.org/branches/barrow/
Samaritans (Lancaster): www.samaritans.org/branches/lancaster/
Samaritans: <https://www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help/if-youre-having-difficult-time/support-groups-people-bereaved-suicide/>
Schools Resources: localoffer.cumbria.gov.uk/kb5/cumbria/fsd/advice.page?id=2imoH2hBqTs
www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/916175/eps-bereavement-and-loss-covid-19.pdf
St John's Hospice: Tel. 01524382538 www.sjhospice.org.uk/bereavement-support/
Including the Forget Me Not Centre: Providing bereavement and grief support to children, young people and families. Tel. 01524382538 <https://www.sjhospice.org.uk/forgetmenotcentreinfo/>
St Mary's Hospice: Tel. 01229 580305 www.stmaryshospice.org.uk/our-care/for-families/bereavement-support/
Suicide Bereavement Support Cumbria (& surrounding area): Tel. 07572 975 721 or 07896 703 757
www.sbs.org.uk/
Tigerlily Trust: Support following baby loss: Email: enquiries@tigerlilytrust.co.uk
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TigerLilyTrust/>
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay: Tel. 01524 512406 www.uhmb.nhs.uk/our-services/services/bereavement

National and online support:

Age UK: www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/health-wellbeing/relationships-family/bereavement/
At a Loss: The UK's signposting website for the bereaved www.ataloss.org/
Brake: Provide support for people bereaved by a death on the road <https://www.brake.org.uk/>
Care for the Family: <https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/family-life/bereavement-support>
Child Bereavement UK: Includes Live Chat via the website Tel. 0800 02 888 40 www.childbereavementuk.org/
Coroners' Courts Support Service: Provide support to people where there is an inquest following a death
 Tel 0300 111 2141 www.coronerscourtsupportservice.org.uk
Cruse Bereavement Care: Tel. 0808 808 1677 www.cruse.org.uk/
Dying Matters: www.dyingmatters.org/
Good Thinking: <https://www.good-thinking.uk/bereavement/>
Grief Chat: <https://griefchat.co.uk/chat/>
Grief Encounter: Tel. 0808 802 0111 <https://www.griefencounter.org.uk/>
Interfaith and Multifaith: www.interfaith.org.uk/
Kooth: Online support for children and young people <https://www.kooth.com/>
Lullaby Trust: Support for anyone affected by the sudden and unexpected death of a baby or young child
www.lullabytrust.org.uk/bereavement-support/
Marie Curie: Tel. 0800 090 2309 www.mariecurie.org.uk/
National Bereavement Alliance: nationalbereavementalliance.org.uk/
National Bereavement Partnership: Tel. 0800 448 0800 <https://www.nationalbereavementpartnership.org/>
Network - Health: Supports pastoral, spiritual, and religious care in healthcare, particularly at end-of-life
<https://network-health.org.uk/>
NHS Bereavement Helpline: Tel. 0800 2600 400 www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/bereavement-advice-and-support/ The helpline is now run by Sudden <https://www.suddendeath.org/>
Samaritans: Tel. 116 123 free from any phone 0330 094 5717 local call charges apply <https://www.samaritans.org/>
Sands: Support for anyone affected by the death of a baby Tel. 0808 164 3332 <http://www.sands.org.uk/>
Sudden: Support when someone has died suddenly, or too soon in their lives Tel. 0800 2600 400
<https://sudden.org/>
Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide: Tel. 0300 111 5065 uksobs.org/
The Compassionate Friends: Tel. 0345 123 2304 <https://www.tcf.org.uk/>
The Good Grief Trust: www.thegoodgrieftrust.org/

Way Widowed and Young: For people aged 50 or under when their partner died: www.widowedandyoung.org.uk/
Winstons Wish: Tel. 08088 021 www.winstonswish.org/about-us/

Level 2: Extra support that some people might need to access

A small percentage of people may need extra support through their bereavement. Although this can still be offered by people and networks known to the person, it may be helpful to create opportunities to consult with professionals who have had more direct experience of working with bereaved people. This could be because of the nature of the loss – the death of a child, for example, or a sudden death – or because of other circumstances in the person’s life.

Local support:

Amparo support following suicide (Lancashire): Tel. 0330 088 9255 listening-ear.co.uk/amparo/
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Every Life Matters: Bereavement support for people bereaved by suicide: www.every-life-matters.org.uk/affected-by-suicide/
Grief Chat: <https://griefchat.co.uk/chat/>
Samaritans (Furness and South Lakes): www.samaritans.org/branches/barrow/
Samaritans (Lancaster): www.samaritans.org/branches/lancaster/
St John’s Hospice: Tel. 01524382538 www.sjhospice.org.uk/bereavement-support/
Including the Forget Me Not Centre: Providing bereavement and grief support to children, young people and families. Tel. 01524382538 <https://www.sjhospice.org.uk/forgetmenotcentreinfo/>
St Mary’s Hospice: Tel. 01229 580305 www.stmaryshospice.org.uk/our-care/for-families/bereavement-support/
Suicide Bereavement Support (SBS) Cumbria (& surrounding area): Tel. 07572 975 721 or 07896 703 757 www.sbs.org.uk/

National support:

Child Bereavement UK: Tel. 0800 02 888 40 www.childbereavementuk.org/
Cruse Bereavement Care: Tel. 0808 808 1677 www.cruse.org.uk/
Samaritans: Tel. 116 123 free from any phone 0330 094 5717 local call charges apply www.samaritans.org/

Level 3: A few may need more complex grief support

A few people who have experienced trauma or severe/extended and complicated grief reactions after bereavement may need some individualised 1-1 specialist bereavement support. This level is most likely to be provided by bereavement specific charities and organisations.

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Grief Chat: <https://griefchat.co.uk/chat/>

St John's Hospice: Tel. 01524382538 www.sjhospice.org.uk/bereavement-support/

Including the Forget Me Not Centre: Providing bereavement and grief support to children, young people and families. Tel. 01524382538 <https://www.sjhospice.org.uk/forgetmenotcentreinfo/>

St Mary's Hospice: Tel. 01229 580305 www.stmaryshospice.org.uk/our-care/for-families/bereavement-support/

Suicide Bereavement Support Cumbria (& surrounding area): Tel. 07572 975 721 or 07896 703 757 www.sbs.org.uk/

National Support:

Child Bereavement UK : Tel. 0800 02 888 40 www.childbereavementuk.org/

Samaritans: Tel. 116 123 free from any phone 0330 094 5717 local call charges apply

Other resources available

Information following a death

Bereavement books are given out to families by the bereavement teams at our hospitals as well as the hospices.

Furness General Hospital (South Cumbria): www.rns.uk/furness

Royal Lancaster Infirmary (North Lancashire): www.rns.uk/lancaster

St Mary's Hospice: Available on request Tel. 01229 580305

St John's Hospice: www.sjhospice.org.uk/app/uploads/2016/01/St-Johns-Hospice-When-Someone-Dies.pdf

Bereavement support online

The following is a list of nationally produced online information, which families and carers can be signposted to about grief, funerals and support in exceptional times.

Child Bereavement UK: www.childbereavementuk.org/coronavirus-supporting-children

Compassion in Dying: Helping people prepare for the end of life. How to talk about it, plan for it, and record your wishes Tel: 0800 999 2434 coronavirus.compassionindying.org.uk/making-decisions-about-treatment/

Cruse Bereavement Care: www.cruse.org.uk/get-help/coronavirus-dealing-bereavement-and-grief

Books for children: www.cruse.org.uk/about-cruse/publications/recommended-books/books-for-children

Devon CC: Blessings, rituals and last rites during the coronavirus pandemic

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/equality/communities/religion-faith-or-belief/coronavirus-pandemic>

Dying Matters: Aims to help people talk more openly about dying, death and bereavement, and making plans for the end of life. www.dyingmatters.org/page/updated-resources

Faith Action: <https://www.faithaction.net/>

Humanist UK: humanism.org.uk/2020/04/20/humanists-uk-welcomes-updated-guidance-on-funerals-during-the-pandemic/

Interfaith and Multifaith: www.interfaith.org.uk/news/covid-19

Irish Hospice Foundation: hospicefoundation.ie/bereavement-2-2/covid19-care-and-inform/

Marie Curie: www.mariecurie.org.uk/help/support/coronavirus

Mental Health & Wellbeing during Covid-19: www.every-life-matters.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ELM006-COVID-19-public-info-a5-booklet-AW-online-1.pdf

National Bereavement Alliance: nationalbereavementalliance.org.uk/covid-19/nationalbereavementalliance.org.uk/keeping-in-touch-when-someone-is-seriously-ill/

Network Health: Network for Pastoral, Spiritual & Religious Care in Health <http://network-health.org.uk/index.php/about/covid-19>

Oxford Health: Coping with the Coronavirus - Bereavement (one of a series about Coronavirus and mental health): www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/OH-008.20-Coronavirus-and-bereavement-Local-v2.pdf
<https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/publication/coronavirus/>

Quaker Social Action: Have produced a guide to organising a meaningful funeral when people cannot attend: quakersocialaction.org.uk/we-can-help/helping-funerals/down-earth/information-and-guidance/coronavirus-organising-meaningful

Samaritans: <https://www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help/if-youre-having-difficult-time/if-youre-worried-about-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-pandemic/>

School Resources: localoffer.cumbria.gov.uk/kb5/cumbria/fsd/advice.page?id=2imoH2hBqTs
www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/916175/eps-bereavement-and-loss-covid-19.pdf

This list is not exhaustive and we are not endorsing or approving any specific organisation.

Other formats:

If you would like to access this information in an alternative format, then please contact us on

Tel. 01524 519369 or visit <https://www.morecambebayccg.nhs.uk/your-health/bereavement-support-in-morecambe-bay>