



NHS Education for Scotland

Transcript of 'Development of a Bereavement Charter for Scotland' video

- Dr. Donald Macaskill, Chief Executive Scottish Care

I'm Dr Donald Macaskill. I'm the Chief Executive of Scottish Care which is the representative body for care home and home care housing support providers across Scotland. Our members employ about 110,000 staff who everyday support people including through bereavement support.

Talking about death and dying is really hard for anybody and sometimes that means that we avoid people once they have experienced a death in their family or community people talk about individuals literally crossing the street in order to avoid a conversation. Bereavement is how you support an individual through those very difficult hard moments, months and years after someone has died a number of professionals and individuals who have experienced a death of someone close to them have got together to draw up a Charter and a Charter to describe what Scotland could be like if we really support those who are experiencing the loss of someone if we really support them well

This work has been brought about by a desire to change things to make sure that in Scotland can do all that we can to support people who might be facing difficulties following the death of someone they know or someone in their community so the Charter has brought together statements which are really

individual through those very difficult hard moments, months and years after someone has died a number of professionals and individuals who have experienced a death of someone close to them have got together to draw up a Charter and a Charter to describe what Scotland could be like if we really support those who are experiencing the loss of someone if we really support them well

This work has been brought about by a desire to change things to make sure that in Scotland can do all that we can to support people who might be facing difficulties following the death of someone they know or someone in their community so the Charter has brought together statements which are really about a description of what Scotland could be like in order that we better support someone who is experiencing bereavement, It is based on Human Rights principals and human rights aren't really first and foremost about the law, although that might be important but they are about a set of values that makes you feel that you are valued, you are treated with dignity and that your voice is heard and if you are facing difficulties you are able to find a way in which those difficulties are met so the Charter for Bereavement is hopefully in plain English hit will hopefully speak to the ordinary experiences of woman and men up and down Scotland and it will hopefully begin to make a difference to the experience of people who have faced death or are facing death or dying in their community, so the

Charter is really just a bit of paper it is a set of Statements and on their own they wouldn't make a difference to the individuals but what we hope the Charter will do is if you are a business you will look at the Charter and think about how can I better support workers or employees who might be experiencing death in their family or community. We hope it will make a difference that if you are a child in school or a young person in college that you will be able to look at the Charter and think what should I be expecting from support we hope it will make a difference if you are an ordinary member of the community you may see this Charter in your GPs surgery or in your local library and we hope that it will be able to point you to the help you need and it will be able to describe for you the sort of Society that we want to be in Scotland So this Charter has a life beyond its publication, we want it to

be a description of the sort of Society and ?national that Scotland need to become. We do not want a Country where people are frightened to talk about death and dying we want to create a Society where rather than walk across the road to avoid the difficult issues of bereavement people will be present to listen, to support and to give whatever advice somebody might need this is not the Charter which belongs to those who created it it is a Charter for everyone who wants support in the bereavement and everyone who experiences death and dying in today's Scotland.

The film was produced in March 2020 and can be found at www.sad.scot.nhs.uk or <https://vimeo.com/395685686>

For more information visit www.sad.scot.nhs.uk or contact supportarounddeath@nes.scot.nhs.uk

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