

Bereavement Charter for Children & Adults in Scotland

#becausegriefmatters

On behalf of the National Bereavement Charter Working Group

Abbreviated abstract:

Bereavement happens to everyone but remains one of the most difficult things for people to talk about.

The Bereavement Charter is a collaborative effort to improve how children and adults experience death, dying, grief and bereavement.

Launched in 2020, The Bereavement Charter is for everyone.

The latest resource produced by the Charter working group is a short animation to support all health and social care professionals to embed the principles of the Charter into practice.

Related publications:

- [A Bereavement Charter for Children and Adults in Scotland](#)
- [Bereavement Charter for Children & Adults in Scotland: What does it mean for health and social care professionals?](#)
- [National Taskforce for Human Rights: leadership report](#)



A Bereavement Charter for Children and Adults in Scotland

Bereavement
Charter
FOR SCOTLAND

This Charter provides a set of statements which describe how in Scotland we can support a person or a group of people experiencing bereavement. Good bereavement care is a human right. This Charter is underpinned by a desire to make sure that in Scotland, we can do all that we can to support people who might be experiencing difficulties following the death of someone they know or somebody in their community. It is the responsibility of everyone within Scotland to ensure that this is achieved. These are our statements:

IN SCOTLAND, PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN BEREAVED SHOULD:

- be treated with compassion, empathy and kindness
- have their wishes, choices and beliefs listened to, considered and respected by all

SCOTLAND SHOULD BE A PLACE WHERE:

- grief, bereavement and death are recognised as a natural part of life
- there is an open culture which is supportive of people having the opportunity to grieve
- accessing support (including emotional, practical, financial, social, and spiritual) is seen as a right
- efforts are made to ensure that adequate bereavement support is accessible for everyone
- people have space and time to grieve
- it is recognised that bereavement might affect all aspects of a person's life (e.g. relationships, school, workplace)

IN SCOTLAND, PEOPLE ARE SUPPORTIVE OF FRIENDS, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN BEREAVED, WHICH MEANS THAT:

- people's needs and grief reactions are recognised and acknowledged as being different at different times
- grief and bereavement can begin before death and can be lifelong
- people who have been bereaved should feel supported to talk about the person who has died if they wish to
- bereavement and grieving can be experienced by the whole community and not just by individuals
- there is help to know where to refer or signpost people to for additional support

The Charter and additional information can be found at
www.scottishcare.org/bereavement

Previous work, challenge, and approach

Previous Work

Recognition of inequalities in bereavement care across Scotland

Challenge

For Scotland to be the best place to live and to die

To create a resource that clearly sets out standards for how to achieve better bereavement experiences in Scotland for all

Approach

- Bereavement Charter Development Group established
- 13 statements on best bereavement care for children and adults based on human rights principles
- Explanation of the Charter statements with information on how all people can use the Charter
- Launched across Scotland in Spring of 2020
- Bereavement Charter group continue to develop ways of extending and embedding the Charter into practice across all aspects of society

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Bereavement Charter

Scotland's first Bereavement Charter for Children and Adults was launched in April 2020.

The Charter, together with Guidance notes, was developed by a coalition of individuals and organisations, of which NIS Education for Scotland has been a part.

It contains 13 statements which describe what the best bereavement care and support should look like. It has been developed to support individuals and communities who struggle with the death of someone they know or someone in their community.

Follow news and discussion on the Charter on Twitter via the hashtag #becausegriefmatters



[Support Around Death Bereavement Charter](#)

A BEREAVEMENT CHARTER FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN SCOTLAND

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[Scottish Care Bereavement Charter](#)

Techniques and Methods

Animations

As part of ongoing development of the Charter an animation was created to support health and social care staff to embed the principles of the Charter into practice - [Bereavement Charter Film](#)



Webinars

A series of webinars continue to enable awareness and aim to support society's knowledge and skills around supporting bereavement experiences in Scotland



Recognition

Logo and Charter Mark have been developed to be easily recognisable and used universally



Results and Conclusions

Achievements

- Successful launch across Scotland of the Charter and Charter mark
- Delivery of 2 webinars
- Launch of an animation for health and social care professionals

Continuous improvement and future developments

- Continue to embed the Charter into all aspects of Scottish society ensuring that bereavement care is enhanced
- Continuous improvement process for the Charter guidance notes
- Grow the reach of the Charter by keeping the information current
- Ensuring the Charter continues to be accessible and raising awareness by reaching different groups
- Further webinars – to support learning around key themes
- Adopting Charter Mark – making the Charter recognisable by enabling endorsement by organisations and individuals
- Collaborative working with Northern Ireland – Furthering the reach of the effectiveness of having bereavement standards and the importance of these wherever someone lives and dies



“Listening, supporting and guidance is the key to empathy. Delighted this resource has been published to help every single person that is experiencing grief”

Julie Morrison, Baby Loss Retreat

“The new Bereavement Charter is a welcome, much-needed resource for people of all ages dealing with loss and grief. It will offer crucial support, particularly during these most uncertain and unprecedented times.”

Jeane Freeman
Cabinet Secretary for Health
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