



# Report findings and recommendations

**Bereavement**  
is everyone's  
business



## UKCB Key Findings

- **6.8 million people were bereaved in the UK in 2020 and 2021 compared to 6.1 million in 2018 and 19, with 750,000 additional bereavements<sup>1</sup>**
- **Over a quarter (28%) of adult respondents to the Commission's consultation received no support from family and almost half (46%) received no support from friends following bereavement**
- **61% of adult respondents had difficulties with at least one practical or administrative task following bereavement**
- **33% of respondents who wanted to access bereavement services but indicated no support was available and 37% said they didn't know how to access support**
- **Over 40% of those who wanted formal bereavement support did not get any**





# 8 Principles for Change

**1**

I am supported by my family, my friends  
and the communities around me

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**2**

I am sensitively supported by my school, college  
or workplace during my bereavement

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3

I am well supported during the death, and feel confident that the person who died received appropriate and compassionate care

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4

The things I must do after a death are simple and straightforward

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5

I am compassionately and helpfully supported by those whose job brings them into contact with me through my bereavement

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6

I have access to an affordable  
and meaningful funeral

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7

I feel secure in my home and have  
the right financial support

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8

I can easily find and access the right emotional  
bereavement support for my circumstances





**I am well supported before and during the death, and feel confident that the person who died received appropriate and compassionate care**

1. Professional bodies and employers of anyone whose role brings them into contact with bereaved people must ensure they have **bereavement training**
2. Each UK Government must ensure there is **sustainable funding** and effective delivery of **palliative care services**.
3. All UK Governments must ensure that palliative and end of life care strategies are effectively linked to bereavement support strategies

5

**I am compassionately and helpfully supported by those whose job brings them into contact with me through all stages of my bereavement**

Professional bodies and employers of anyone whose role brings them into contact with bereaved people must ensure they have **bereavement training that is culturally-informed, and contextually tailored**, including training on complex and traumatic grief, at an appropriate level

# 8

## I can easily find and access the right emotional bereavement support for my circumstances

1. Bereavement services and support must sign up to an agreed set of standards
2. NICE and SIGN must develop guidelines for the delivery of bereavement support at all levels, including for complex and traumatic grief
3. Governments must invest 79p per person annually for the transformation of bereavement services over the coming 5 years
4. All public, private and third sector bodies supporting bereaved people must commit to tackling inequalities in access to bereavement services and support
5. All UK Governments must commission further research to better understand the support needs of people affected by bereavement.



To deliver all of the above recommendations, each UK Government must establish and deliver a **cross-departmental strategy for bereavement**.

This must:

- encompass **all aspects of public policy** affecting bereaved people
- draw on **learning from the pandemic** to set out how people (public, communities and the workforce) will be supported in future mass bereavement events
- **set out the responsibilities** of national and local government, health and care commissioners and other statutory bodies
- **address inadequacies** in support for Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities, and others who are particularly poorly served

