 **NHS Education for Scotland**

**Transcript of ‘NES Bereavement Education Programme 10 year anniversary event – Paul Graham’ conference film clip recording**

**Speaker**: Paul Graham, Head of Spiritual Care and Wellbeing, NHS Lanarkshire

Hi, my name's Paul Graham. I'm Head of Spiritual Care and Wellbeing in NHS Lanarkshire. I've been involved in the Bereavement Coordinators Network for quite a number of years now. For me it's, it's had a big impact on my own practice, but also having resources that have been developed, really good quality resources, available on the website, the Support Around Death website. That was probably the first part where it was an area where you could signpost staff to and colleagues, especially following things like the death of a colleague. There was good, there's good video clips, advice and guidelines for approaching that for difficult conversations. So yeah, that, that was a, I think it was a game changer having those resources. It wasn't a course, it was just maybe letting people be able to view something for a couple of minutes.

Recently through the network, I’ve also been involved in doing a piece of work around guidance for support of people experiencing prolonged grief disorder. So the network has, has been a springboard into different bits and pieces of initiatives across Scotland and across healthcare, health and social care.

During COVID, I think is where the network for me was a, a bit of a game changer again. We, we met more frequently during that time and I think the pace of change on guidelines, especially around death, loss and grief, the processes and protocols around that were changing quite dynamically during COVID and the, the early months. But a big part of our gathering together would also be to just check in with each other and the support for each other. So I think that that helped build good working relationships. There was a level of trust and I think when people were just exhausted, they could reach out to other folk in the network for support.

Last thing for me just now, it's, it's, is that probably, I think it's a shared desire by a couple of folk in the network as well. The Scottish strategy that we work towards, Shaping Bereavement Care, was published, I think it was 2009, 2010. So the work was done a couple of years before that. So it, it definitely needs reviewed and refreshed, especially in light of new approaches and learning and developments round about supporting people through loss and grief. So yeah, if, if the government were, were able to give us resources, I think to, to address that, I think it would be welcomed.

I just want to say a thanks to the team at NES as well because, they're, they get all sorts of ranges of requests I know from myself, but from others in the network. And it's, it's been really good to have that area of expertise. And also an area that will go and, a team that will work on our behalf and try and get more resources available, for, you know, just as emerging demands come along. So a huge thank you to the NES team for all the work that you do in supporting us in the work in the boards. So yeah, thanks. Hope you have a absolutely brilliant 10th anniversary celebration. Cheers.

The film was produced in August 2025 and can be found at <https://www.sad.scot.nhs.uk/webinars/previous-webinars/> or <https://vimeo.com/1120096674>

For more information visit [www.sad.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.sad.scot.nhs.uk) or contact supportarounddeath@nes.scot.nhs.uk

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