**NHS Education for Scotland**

**Transcript of ‘What is the NHS Bereavement Strategic Lead and Coordinator Network’ Animation**

Across NHS Scotland a Network exists which connects Bereavement Strategic Leads and Coordinators from all regional health boards. It also includes representatives from some special boards.

The Bereavement Education Programme within NHS Education for Scotland, or NES, helps to support the Network, which is made up of one or two nominated individuals from each organisation.

Members come from a range of professional backgrounds, including chaplaincy and spiritual care, nursing and allied health professions. Their health board bereavement role and remit can also vary.

Through involvement with the Bereavement Network, members can advocate on behalf of patients, families, carers and staff. It also provides a forum for hearing about topical issues, policy updates and opportunities to influence the development of policy, strategy and educational resources.

At its heart, it supports the sharing and promotion of good practice and innovation at local, regional, and national levels.

Opportunities for peer support and networking are also prioritised. These are provided through a programme of quarterly meetings and the use of other digital solutions which support the building of connections virtually.

At meetings, members can disseminate their own learning, draw on the Network’s collective knowledge and experience, and hear from external speakers and subject experts on a range of bereavement-related topics.

Since its inception, some of the Network’s key achievements include having oversight of the development and design of a thistle image which is used on a variety of materials nationally across Scotland to support good end of life and bereavement care. The thistle also formed the basis for the logo of the first Bereavement Charter for Children and Adults in Scotland which launched in 2020.

With support from NES, a number of Network members have led quality improvement projects which have focussed on the delivery of person-centred bereavement care and interventions to support staff wellbeing. Work has included the establishment of hubs with resources and facilities for people who have been bereaved, and death, dying and bereavement awareness-raising events for the general public. Other examples include the design and creation of bespoke bags to return personal belongings to families after a person has died, and training sessions for mortuary and non-clinical administrative staff in secondary care on professional and compassionate communication with people who have been bereaved, as well as self-care.

Through collaborative working, members of the Network have also contributed to the development of innovative new educational resources, and the hosting of learning events for health and social care staff, which have seen international interest.

For more information about the NHS Scotland Bereavement Strategic Lead and Coordinator Network please contact the NES Bereavement Education Programme team.

The film was produced in May 2024 and can be found at [www.sad.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.sad.scot.nhs.uk/) or <https://vimeo.com/951062024>

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

© NHS Education for Scotland 2024. You can copy or reproduce the information in this document for use within NHS Scotland and for non-commercial purposes. Use of this document for commercial purposes is permitted only with the written permission of NES.