



# LEEDS BEREAVEMENT FORUM

## Annual Report 2016-17



Celebrating  
21 years  
1996-2017



# Celebrating 21 years

Established in 1996, Leeds Bereavement Forum is a small charity which works to develop and improve bereavement services in the city. We work collaboratively with partners across the city who include public, private and third sector organisations. The Forum is funded jointly by the three Leeds Clinical Commissioning Groups.

## Looking Back / Looking Forward

This year we celebrate our 21st anniversary and have researched back through our archives to highlight our major achievements and successes. Please take a look at the timeline below continued on pages 4 and 5 to read about what we have achieved over the past two decades. For more information about the Forum and our work please get in touch.



## Timeline | 1996-2017



LEEDS  
BEREAVEMENT  
FORUM

**1996** | Leeds Bereavement Network established

**1999** | First Project Manager appointed

**2002** | Forum established

**1998** | First funding bid secured to develop the Network

**2000** | First Leeds Bereavement Forum Directory produced

# Our vision

Our vision is to be the driving force behind improving bereavement services across Leeds.



- We signpost individuals to the most appropriate bereavement service either locally or nationally. You do not need to be referred to us, our service is free and open to all
- We provide training, information, events and conferences to people who work in the area of bereavement to support their professional development. We work in partnership with organisations across the city to improve the provision of bereavement services
- We campaign to help people talk more openly about dying, death and bereavement and to make plans for the end of life. We work in partnership with Dying Matters nationally and locally

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| Leeds Bereavement achieved charity status

**2005** | First stakeholder event and launch of three year strategy

**2007** | AGM theme Leeds Hospices

**2004** | First Leeds Bereavement Forum website launched

**2006** | AGM theme Childhood Bereavement

# Secretary's Report



This year has been an exciting year of developments as the Forum secured its funding

for the next two years, which in turn allowed us to look forward to new partnership projects.

We have held many successful events over the year raising the profile of bereaved people throughout the city, recognising the diversity of the bereaved and the effects this can have on different groups such as pregnancy loss and refugees

Our training courses have been well attended and have demonstrated to

us the need to build on our success in this field.

Our social media footprint is expanding with good use of the website and other social media forms.



Our trustee base is growing however, our Chair Sue Smith resigned in March after many years' service to Leeds Bereavement Forum and will be much missed. We all look forward to the next two years.

**Lynne Fordyce | Secretary**

## Timeline | 1996-2017



LEEDS  
BEREAVEMENT  
FORUM

**2009** | AGM theme Assessing risk in bereavement



**2011** | AGM theme Working together to provide bereavement support



**2010** | AGM theme The place of ritual in death and dying



**2012** | Launch of The Leeds Charter For Bereaved Children





# Treasurer's Report

The financial position of Leeds Bereavement Forum remains healthy and stable for the financial year ended in March 2017.

Total receipts during the financial year are £41,933 against total payments of £40,473. As a result, there is a surplus of £1,460 at the financial year end, compared to last year's deficit of £2,353. This is mainly due to a reorganisation in human resources which reduces our overall payments in salaries and pension.

The surplus in net cash receipt this year increases our cash fund balances from £31,035 to £32,495.

Going forward, Leeds Bereavement Forum has secured sufficient funding from commissioning bodies for operation for the next two years. Our staff continue to support healthy financial functions and maintain a high level of commitment to provide services set out in our charity objectives. A full copy of our Annual Accounts is available from the office.



**Joanne Dyson | Treasurer**

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**2013** | The Forum held its first two death cafés

**2015** | Official launch of Leeds Suicide Bereavement Service

**2014** | First drop in peer support group for Leeds Suicide Bereavement

**2016** | Launch of new website and branding

# Our activities April 2016 - Ma



In May 2016 we launched our new series of free monthly Special Interest Group Talks.

Our first talk in May was *'Suicide and its effect on Children'*, other talks in the series include *'Pregnancy Loss'* and *'Digital Legacy'*. The talks have grown in popularity and we have continued to introduce new subjects into 2017.

## Raising awareness

We held four Death Cafés during Dying Matters Week in May, three in learning disability-led venues and participated in the Dying Matters Leeds event at Leeds City Museum. In September in partnership with Full Circle Funerals, we introduced a series of four monthly Death Cafés, which were followed in February 2017 in partnership with Leeds Libraries with a series of five Death Cafés running across the city in different library locations. We plan to continue our Death Cafés with Leeds Libraries into 2018.

*"Great presentations from all speakers, very informative."*

In June as part of Refugee Week, Leeds Bereavement Forum's annual conference examined how Leeds supports refugees and asylum seekers who have faced or are facing bereavement. We had a great line up of speakers and received excellent feedback .

In November, we ran a series of workshops with The

*"Both Lynne and Mary v and demonstrated vast that is serious was abso*

Grief Series during Day of the Dead week, funded by Sport Relief Community Cash. The workshops were well attended and held in a variety of community locations across the city. Working in partnership with Time to Shine project at Leeds Older People's Forum we introduced a new half-day session, *'Bereavement - a lonely place'*.

Throughout the year we held four *'Basic Bereavement Skills'* training sessions in

partnership with Leeds City Council, plus our bespoke *'Bereavement Skills for working with Children'* training course which we held in June for Catholic Care. We hope to expand our training provision further in 2017 by recruiting a new Development Worker.

## Signposting support

We formally launched our new website and branding at our Annual General Meeting in November. Feedback has been really positive and has allowed us to reach a larger audience along with our use of Twitter and Facebook.

*were approachable, knowledgeable experience. Their delivery of a subject lutely brilliant.”*

In December, in partnership with Childhood Bereavement Network, we held a free one-day conference for Leeds Bereavement Forum members, *‘Supporting children before a death - and supporting your service.’* which again received excellent feedback.

## Working across the city

We continue to chair the quarterly Leeds Citywide Bereavement Meetings, partners include St Gemma’s Hospice, Wheatfields Hospice, Carers Leeds and Cruse Bereavement Care. The Forum is also a key stakeholder on Leeds City Council Bereaved Children and Young People’s Steering group and Leeds Suicide Bereavement Service

Steering Group.

Working in partnership with Leeds City Museum we held a series of events between December 2016 and July 2017 to coincide with their Dying Matters Community Display. The exhibition was part of the national Dying Matters initiative which promotes public awareness of dying, death and bereavement. Feedback was really positive and using Leeds Museum as a new location definitely brought a new audience to our talks.

In March we launched our new 2017-2018 hard copy Directory of Bereavement Services including over 80 local and national bereavement support organisations. We have distributed 1,000 copies across the city, including copies to every GP Practice in Leeds.

## What next...

We have lots coming up in 2018 so watch this space! Visit our website [www.lbforum.org.uk](http://www.lbforum.org.uk), sign up to our email bulletin, follow us on Twitter [@LeedsBForum](https://twitter.com/LeedsBForum) or ‘like’ us on Facebook.

**Jane Robinson | Manager**

# Trustees

Lynne Fordyce | Secretary • Joanne Dyson | Treasurer • Alison Bowes (resigned June 2017) • Xina Gooding Broderick • Mark Hibbert • Simon Moran • Emma Pickering • Satwant Rait • Sue Smith (resigned March 2017) • Chris Woods

## Get in touch

Leeds Bereavement Forum is staffed part time. If there is no one to answer your call please leave a message on the answer phone or email us – we will get back to you as quickly as possible. To sign up to our monthly email bulletin please visit our website.

Leeds Bereavement Forum  
Oxford Place Centre  
Oxford Place  
Leeds LS1 3AX

**Website** | [www.lbforum.org.uk](http://www.lbforum.org.uk)

**Email** | [info@lbforum.org.uk](mailto:info@lbforum.org.uk)

**Telephone** | 0113 225 3975

**Twitter** | @LeedsBForum

**Facebook** | [www.facebook.com/LeedsBereavementForum](http://www.facebook.com/LeedsBereavementForum)

## Membership

Membership of Leeds Bereavement Forum is free. To download an application form please visit our website or contact the office. A full list of members is available on our website.



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