



LEEDS
BEREAVEMENT
FORUM



ANNUAL REPORT

2017/2018

Our vision

Established in 1996, 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



For more information please contact us to find out more about bereavement support available. The Forum is funded by Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group.

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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Training development

This year, we were delighted to recruit new freelance bereavement trainers who have brought a diverse and impressive range of skills and experience to our training packages.

This has enabled us to develop our current bereavement courses as well as to expand the range and variety of courses we can offer.

“Cases were helpful and thought provoking.”

Pick and Mix Training

“Got so much out of this very well run, very well paced course. Thank you.”

How to have sensitive conversations on death, dying & bereavement

If you are looking for training around bereavement, please get in touch with your requirements. We can adapt most of our courses to meet your needs.

Half Day In-House Basic Bereavement Skills Training Package

Half Day In-House Intermediate Bereavement Skills Training Package

In-House Bereavement Workshop Sessions

Co-Chairs Report



2017/18 has been another year packed with development at Leeds Bereavement Forum and a year in which we have continued to build on exciting partnerships and create new ones as we move into the second year of our two year funding grant.

Training and Development



Training and development has been a big focus for us this last year seeing us expand and enhance our existing training programme to meet this growing need from statutory, third sector and private organisations in Leeds. We have recruited a cadre of 12 trainers who will help deliver packages covering

death, dying and loss to those organisations who see the benefits it can bring to staff and service users alike.

We have continued to help facilitate a number of successful Death Cafés in partnership with others such as Leeds City Council Libraries, Museums & Galleries, Yorkshire Mesmac and smaller community organisations. These still prove to be popular events and provide an important mechanism for people to talk about death and bereavement in a relaxed setting.

Events and Conferences

We have held successful events and conferences across the city recognising the effect that death can have on different groups such as children and young people, the LGBT+ community, people with learning disabilities and others. It is important that we continue to reach out to those often left on the periphery of conversations about death, dying and loss.

Moving on...

This year has also seen us move from our previous home of many



years, Oxford Place Centre. As the Oxford Place Centre begins its transformation

into a hotel we found ourselves looking for a new home and we are delighted to have now re-located to The Market Place on New Market



Street in Leeds.

We thank you for your support over the last year and look forward to bringing you with us as we continue to cement Leeds Bereavement Forum as the key partner for developing and improving bereavement services within the city.

Mark Hibbert and Xina Gooding-Broderick | Co-Chairs

“Facilitators were easy to understand and sensitive to participants.”

Treasurer’s Report



The financial position of Leeds Bereavement Forum remains healthy and stable for the financial year ended in March 2018.

The opening cash balance from end of financial year 2017 was £32,495. Total income for the year ended March 2018 was £45,225 and expenses were £43,968. This gives us a surplus of £2,257 and a new balance of £34,752.

Free cash reserves at the year end were £32,052 which is well above a recommended level of £21,000.

Our staff continue to support healthy financial functions and maintain a high level of commitment to provide services set out in charity objectives. A full copy of our Annual Accounts is available from the office.

Joanne Dyson | Treasurer



“Thank you for sharing the different evolving thought models.”

Our activities April 2017 - March



It has been another busy year for Leeds Bereavement Forum (LBF). A key development was the successful recruitment of two new part-time posts - a Development Worker and Finance Administrator. This has created more capacity within the organisation to expand our work.

In partnership with Leeds Libraries, we developed a series of five Death Cafés between March and July 2017 across different community library venues across the city. Further Death Cafés were scheduled for the beginning of 2018 including one in partnership with Leeds Mesmac focussing on the LGBT community.

Increasing capacity

This year for the first time, Leeds Citywide Adult Bereavement Service Forum, chaired by LBF, nominated Carers Leeds to Leeds City Council Bereavement Services to apply to funds from the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM). In May, Carers Leeds successfully received £5,000 for their Bereaved Carers service.

LBF is a key partner in the Dying Matters Leeds Partnership facilitated by Leeds City Council. The main 2017 Dying Matters event was held at Leeds City Museum, during Dying Matters Week in May. The day included talks, films, information stands and two LBF Death Cafés.

Partnership working

In June, working in partnership with the University of Leeds, our 2017 Annual Conference focussed on 'Living with Dying: Past, Present and Future.' The day included speakers from the University of Leeds, University of Bradford, University of Sheffield and Leeds Museums and Galleries plus workshops, a Response for the Day Final Panel and a chance to network.

Working in partnership with Leeds City Museum, we held a series of events until 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 City Museum as a new location definitely brought a new audience to our free monthly talks.



Developing training

We continue to develop our training provision, this year offering four Basic Bereavement Skills Training courses in partnership with Leeds City Council as well as offering bespoke bereavement training courses to specific organisations. Developing our training is important to us and in spring 2018 we recruited 12 experienced trainers to take part in a new Train the Trainer Programme to help develop the bereavement training we offer.

During the autumn, LBF took part in several external events including Baby Week Leeds in September; a Healthwatch Leeds event on Good Endings in October; the Palliative Care Conference in November and Dying Matters Leeds 'Day of the Dead' event in the Tiled Hall cafe.

In November, LBF celebrated its 21st Birthday and Annual General Meeting. We were delighted to welcome Ted Bowman to talk about 'Looking Back, Looking Forward: Challenges for Bereavement Care.' Ted gave an overview of perspectives and practices that have stood the test of time and experience as well as newer perspectives. He also

shared some personal reflections and poetry.

In 2018 LBF successfully launched and managed a new small grants programme on behalf of the Dying Matters Leeds Partnership for events happening for Dying Matters Week in May 2018. Organisations across the city applied for a Dying Matters Leeds Community Grant of up to £200 to deliver an event in their local community.

In January, in partnership with Leeds City Council and Jane Tomlinson Appeal, we held a free half day conference – 'Let's talk about... Supporting Bereaved Children and Young People in Leeds.' The conference brought together key partners, experts, leaders and organisations, to share the pathways for children and young people in Leeds who have been bereaved as well as the latest information and services available around supporting bereaved children and young people. Since that meeting, Leeds City Council have committed to spending £150,000 each year for five years in creating a new Children and Family Bereavement Service which is planned to launch in April 2019.

Jane Robinson | Manager

Trustees

Xina Gooding Broderick | (Co-Chair) • Mark Hibbert | (Co-Chair)
• Joanne Dyson | Treasurer • Lynne Fordyce (resigned July 2018) • Simon Moran • Nadine Owens • Emma Pickering • Satwant Rait • Chris Woods (resigned November 17)

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.

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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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