



LEEDS
BEREAVEMENT
FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT

2018/2019

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.

“The structure and content of the day was wonderful. All of the speakers were amazing; very helpful and insightful.”

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

“A workshop which was really a workshop – active”

Training uptake has increased steadily throughout this year. Between April 2018 and March 2019, we delivered a total of twelve training sessions. Participants included care workers, Leeds City Council staff, hospice staff and a range of voluntary sector organisation staff and volunteers.

Our Training

We are fortunate to have a range of skilled and experienced trainers delivering our courses, which include:

- **Half day in-house Basic Bereavement Skills Training package**

Suitable for anyone working with bereaved people in a general setting, this includes an overview of bereavement theory, some interactive group based exercises and a case study discussion.

- **Half day in-house Intermediate Bereavement Skills Training package**

A more in-depth look at bereavement for those who have experience of working with bereaved people.

- **In-house bereavement workshops**

Designed to help staff and volunteers to be more aware and feel more confident to work with bereavement.

- **How to have sensitive conversations around death, dying and bereavement**

A one day course run in partnership with Dying Matters Leeds to help staff and volunteers, who work with people approaching end of life, improve their confidence and communication skills around death, dying and bereavement.

- **Supporting people with Learning Disabilities through a bereavement**

Our newest course developed in co-production with Tenfold, the Learning Disability Forum for Leeds. This course is in development for 2020.

All our training sessions can be delivered in-house for up to twenty people and adapted to meet your needs.

We try to keep our training low cost where possible, particularly for Leeds based voluntary organisations, please get in touch with your training requirements.



Co-Chairs' Report



As we look back over the last year it is hard not to be overwhelmed with a great sense of pride at the achievements of Leeds Bereavement Forum, a result of the hard work and dedication of our staff and the work they undertake with others on behalf of all of our membership and Trustees.

Funding

We are delighted that NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group have again recognised the important work of LBF and have agreed to re-new our funding grant for another two years for the period April 2019 to March 2021. We thank the Commissioners for their recognition and, along with some smaller funding grants that we have secured, we are delighted that our work championing death, dying and loss in Leeds can continue.

Training and development

Building on the successes of last

year our already busy training and development programme has blossomed. Almost doubling our training sessions year-on-year we have been delighted to work closely with the Dying Matters Leeds partnership and St Gemma's Hospice to deliver bespoke packages. This vital work has only been possible through the hard work and creativity of our Development Worker Barbara, supported by our excellent trainers to ensure that the content and delivery of our training packages is of the highest standards.

“Great trainers - questions were answered the way I understand - keep up the work!”

Looking ahead

Our work to become a CIO continues and we anticipate converting our status over the next few months to better position LBF for the future.

Finally, we want to pay a huge tribute to Jane, Barbara and Kathy who work so hard to make all of this possible. Their dedication, compassion and creativity knows no bounds and we are so incredibly lucky to have such brilliant people working for LBF, with them our next year is sure to be as worthwhile and fruitful as the last.

Mark Hibbert and Xina Gooding-Broderick | Co-Chairs

Treasurer's Report



Leeds Bereavement Forum's economic position remains positive for the financial year that ended in March 2019.

The opening cash balance was £34,752.

Total income for the period April 2018 to March 2019 was £50,659 and expenses were £54,935.

Extra expenditure this period can be explained as the agreed investment we made in training a group of new trainers in May 2018, our moving office costs in August 2018 and supporting a full complement of staffing levels after the role vacancies during 2017-2018.



This gives us a cash balance at the end of the period of £30,476 of which £2,000 is a grant from Dying Matters Leeds that we distribute to local groups. So free cash reserves at the end of the year are £28,467, which is still above our recently amended reserves policy level of £25,000.



Thanks to the staff

Our staff can be thanked for the recent training development work that boosts income and for obtaining robust sponsorship of annual conferences and maintaining sound financial recording practices. A full copy of our Annual Accounts is available from the office.

Joanne Dyson | Treasurer

“Absolutely captivating and incredibly moving. Excellent delivery and so informative. Superb!!”

Our activities April 2018 - March



It has been another busy year for Leeds Bereavement Forum (LBF). We

continue to signpost individuals and organisations to the most appropriate bereavement service either locally or nationally. This year we received over 170 advice and information queries. Our e-bulletin continues to go out monthly alongside information on Twitter and Facebook and visits to our website continue to increase.

Training Provision

One of the major successes of the year is how our training provision has developed following the recruitment and training of a number of experienced new trainers. This is reflected in an increase in the number of training courses we have delivered over the year which has risen to twelve compared to five in the previous financial year. We continue to provide our well respected Basic Bereavement Skills course and additionally we have developed bespoke new training for non-clinical hospice staff. In partnership with Dying Matters

Leeds and Sue Ryder Wheatfields' Hospice we have developed a Dying Matters Training course.

We held fourteen Death Cafes during the year (up from seven the previous year), working in partnership with Leeds Libraries, Leeds Museums and Galleries, the University of Leeds and Yorkshire Mesmac reaching over 80 people during the year.

Using the Arts

The arts remains a very successful way of encouraging people to engage with the sometimes difficult ideas of death, dying and loss. Over the year we have worked directly with several different artists including running two workshops with the poet Erin Bolan to explore legacy, loss, and ways to use creative writing to navigate the grieving process and normalise conversations around mortality. We commissioned the short play, *The Life and Soul* from Red Ladder Theatre Company one-man show around men and suicide which was performed at our conference in June. We facilitated a Q&A session with the film makers Jimmy Edmonds and Jane Harris at the Leeds launch of the film *A Love*



that Never Dies. Additionally, we commissioned Leeds-based artist Ellie Harrison from The Grief Series to run a Day of the Dead Family Workshop at Horsforth Library.

Men and bereavement

At our annual conference this year we looked at the different ways in which men face bereavement and what we can do as professionals to support men better. This was our largest annual conference to date - the day was very well attended with excellent feedback. For the first time the conference was sponsored by Blacks Solicitors LLB with additional funding from Leeds Suicide Bereavement Service.

We remain a key partner in the Dying Matters Leeds Partnership facilitated by Leeds City Council. The main 2018 Dying Matters event was held for the first time at Kirkgate Market, during Dying Matters Week in May. For the second year LBF managed a small grants programme on behalf of the Dying Matters Leeds Partnership for events happening for Dying Matters Week in May 2019. Organisations across the city were invited

to apply for a Dying Matters Leeds Community Grant of up to £200 to deliver an event in their local community.

We ran three Special Interest Group talks during this financial year. Sadly, from summer 2018 we had to end our series of talks as we were no longer able to use Oxford Place Centre as a free venue due to the building's closure. We have been very fortunate in being offered office space at The Market Place, a charity for 11-25 year olds in Leeds city centre.

Campaigning

LBF has been campaigning for many years for better provision for children and families who experience a bereavement. The end of 2018 concluded the work we have been doing in partnership with Leeds City Council with the announcement that the new Children and Family Bereavement Service is Child Bereavement UK who started working in Leeds in April 2019. This new funding should make a massive difference to bereaved families in Leeds and it's fantastic to see this new service develop.

Jane Robinson | Manager

Trustees

Xina Gooding Broderick | Co-Chair • Mark Hibbert | Co-Chair
• Joanne Dyson | Treasurer • Satwant Rait | Secretary • Simon Moran • Nadine Owens • Emma Pickering

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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