



LEEDS
BEREAVEMENT
FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

Our Vision

Established in 1996, our vision is to be the driving force behind improving bereavement services across Leeds.

“Grief is always different so needs to be dealt with in different ways.”

- 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



Please contact us to find out more about bereavement support available. The Forum is funded by West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board.

“It isn’t a subject I particularly like due to how sensitive it is, however I do feel able to and the training was really good.”

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.

Our Training

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, our training has been delivered online and in March 2022, we resumed our in person sessions. We continue to offer a mix of online and face to face to help increase accessibility for our courses.

Our training continued to focus on an awareness that bereavement during the pandemic has been particularly difficult for many people. Deaths have often been sudden and unexpected. Limited funeral services and gatherings, difficulties in being with dying family or friends, as well as restricted access to their usual support networks, has led to very complicated bereavement experiences for many.

Our Training Courses

We offer the following in-house training courses, online or in person, to help support people feel more confident talking about dying, death and bereavement.

Basic Bereavement Skills | Half Day

Suitable for anyone working with bereaved people in a general setting, this session includes an introduction to some bereavement theories, and a listening exercise.

Intermediate Level Bereavement Skills | Half Day

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

Supporting people with Learning Disabilities through a Bereavement | Half Day

Delivered online for organisations supporting people with learning disabilities

Bereavement Skills Training sessions

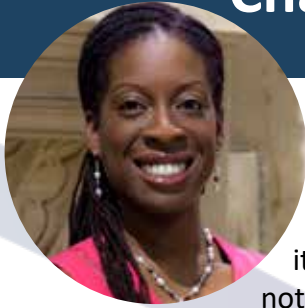
We are now able to deliver shorter sessions, including; **Supporting Bereaved People in the Workplace** and **How to Have Sensitive Conversation about Death Dying and Bereavement**

Get in touch

All our online and in person training sessions can be delivered 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 to discuss your training requirements.



Chair's 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.

We are pleased to announce that Leeds Bereavement Forum is now fully incorporated and all unincorporated charitable assets have been transferred to the new charity. From 1 April 2022 we are operating under the new charity number. The unincorporated charity will shortly be dissolved.

Funding

We are delighted that West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board continue to fund our work. We thank the Commissioners for their recognition and, along with further funding grants that we have secured, we are pleased that our work championing death, dying and loss in Leeds can continue.

Training and development

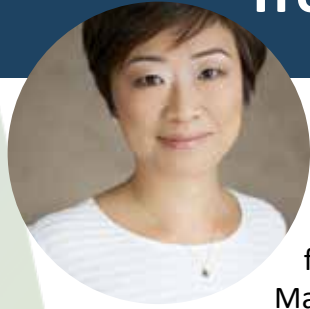
We now offer a mix of online and face to face training to help increase accessibility for our courses. Our training programme becomes more popular year-on-year and we have been delighted to work closely with many organisations this year, delivering new and bespoke packages. This vital work has only been 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.

Looking ahead

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 Leeds Bereavement Forum, with them our next year is sure to be as worthwhile and fruitful as the last.

Xina Gooding-Broderick | Chair

Treasurer's Report



Leeds Bereavement Forum's financial position remained sound during the financial year ended in March 2022.

Our total income £57,294 and expenditure £65,460, which came to a net expenditure of £8,166. This is due to a small decrease in the grants

and donation we received against rising staffing costs in line with their increasing experience, as well as inflation.

The charity's free reserves at the year end were £28,233, which is healthy and above our estimated running cost of around three to six months.

“Everything I learnt from the session I will put into my own practice. Sometimes people just need you there to listen and do not need other services involved as this helps them at the time.”

Thanks to the staff

We thank our staff team's dedication to the mission of the charity, deepening and strengthening the network of bereavement charities in Leeds as well as our training development work.

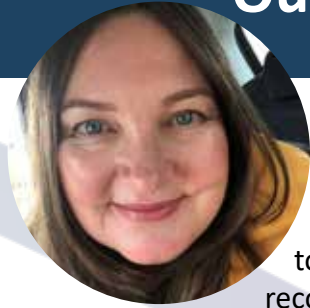
A full copy of our annual accounts is available on our website and by request from the office.

Joanne Dyson | Treasurer



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2021 was the year we steadily returned to a more recognisable way of working.

Thanks to additional funding we received in March 2021 from NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group (now West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board), we were able to maintain our increased staff hours of the previous year and buy much needed hardware. Gradually we have reintroduced face-to-face meetings and training into our work as well as continuing to work virtually when appropriate. We returned to part-time office-based working in May 2021 following over 13 months of exclusively home-working.

Signposting

We continue to signpost individuals and organisations to the most appropriate bereavement service either locally or nationally. This year we received 293 advice and information queries, an increase of 18 per cent on the previous financial year and up 42 per cent on our pre-pandemic levels. The

queries we now receive are distinctly more complicated and time consuming than pre-pandemic. We have found that people are experiencing multiple bereavements; complicated grieving patterns with many people being bereaved (often multiple times) under lockdown and have additional mental health struggles which are often long standing.

Our e-bulletin continues to go out monthly alongside information on Twitter and Facebook and visits to our website continue to do well, with Q2 and Q3 this year being the highest quarterly figures ever.

Training

Our training has gone from strength to strength, we have run 21 training courses over the year, our highest figure ever, re-introducing our first in-person training in March 2022. Training 194 people this year from the third sector as well as the statutory and commercial sector. Thanks to two-year funding in 2020 from Harnessing the Power of Communities, we have developed new training to support older people's organisations across Leeds to create their own peer bereavement support groups. This training

“I feel much more confident running a peer support group after this training.”

Partnerships

has led to the creation of several new peer bereavement groups across Leeds as well as a newly formed Peer Bereavement Groups in Leeds Co-ordinators regular meeting which we facilitate.

Encouraging conversations

Death Cafés are an international movement dedicated to encouraging discussion about death and dying in a relaxed environment. Our Death Cafés moved online during the pandemic but we held our first in real life Death Café again in October 2021, as part of the Kinder Leeds Festival at Jamyang Buddhist Centre. We held ten Death Cafés in total this year, reaching 66 people. Going forward we will continue to host a mixture of virtual and in real life.

Sadly, our face-to-face events have not happened again this financial year, including our 2021 annual conference. We hope to run some of those events later in 2022. We will continue to run some events online, as we have seen how this hybrid model can really work successfully for many people.

We remain a key partner in the Dying Matters Leeds Partnership, facilitated by Leeds City Council. We continue to administrate the Dying Matters Leeds Grant Funding and this year managed two grant schemes.

Our Citywide Bereavement Services Forum has gone from strength to strength in the last year. This networking group, chaired by LBF was established in 2015 and is made up of sixteen third sector and statutory bereavement organisations across Leeds who provide bereavement support to adults, children and young people across the city.

Supporting bereaved people has become even more important during this year and building on our partnership working with other third sector Leeds-based bereavement organisation; West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board; Leeds City Council; Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust and all our partners across Leeds has become even more key than ever.

Jane Robinson | Manager

Trustees

Xina Gooding Broderick | Chair • Joanne Dyson | Treasurer •
Emma Pickering | Secretary • Simon Moran • Nadine Owens •
Satwant Rait (resigned November 2022) • Hillary Wadsworth

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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Leeds LS1 6DG

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Telephone | 0113 225 3975

Twitter | @LeedsBForum

Facebook | 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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Registered Charity No. 1093311