

Young People's Rollercoaster of Bereavement



Who are we?

The Children and Young People's Bereavement (CYPB) service supports children and young people in Renfrewshire aged 2-18 in schools, in the community and in the hospice.

What did we do?

SVH worked with 3 sixth year pupils and their guidance teacher to create four bereavement policies. The 3 pupils used their real life experiences to create one specific policy directed towards teaching staff called "Advice from our pupils". This contained powerful information and moving statements from the 3 bereaved pupils.

Using the information gathered and the experiences of the young people, a set of four new documents were developed, as listed below:

1. Guide for Teachers & Pupil Support
2. Information for Parents & Guardians
3. Information for Pupils
4. Advice from our Pupils



The Results

The young people's work has already made a great impact in Gryffe High School. Since the documents were finalised teaching staff and pupils at the school have reviewed them and feedback has been very positive. The documents have been launched within the school; a board has been created by pupils to display all of their hard work.

A lesson plan has been developed by the 3 pupils introducing the concept of bereavement and exploring ways young people can support each other. From their painful experiences, the pupils have left a legacy behind about hope and kindness.

Recommendations

- Research the need for a similar process with other schools
- Face-to-face training for school staff to discuss the effective use of the documents and possible strategies to support young people.
- Arrange a visual display within the school to inform pupils about the support available to them.

Work completed by Frazer Scott, Scott Paton, Heather Turner, Adam Findlay (Principal Teacher of Guidance), Alison Provan (CYP Service) and Simon Cassidy (St. Vincent's Hospice).

This work supports all five principles of the Scottish Government's Health and Social Care Standards (2017). In particular, Standard 2: "I am fully involved in all decisions about my care and support." It would also reflect the overall ethos of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), and commitment 6 of Strategic Framework for Action on Palliative and End of Life Care 2016-2021.

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