

# Bereavement Charter for Children & Adults in Scotland

On behalf of the National Bereavement Charter Working Group

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## Abbreviated abstract:


Bereavement happens to everyone but remains one of the most difficult things for people to talk about. The Bereavement Charter is a collaborative effort to improve how children and adults experience death, dying, grief and bereavement.

Launched in 2020, The Bereavement Charter is for everyone.

The latest resource produced by the Charter working group is a short animation to support all health and social care professionals to embed the principles of the Charter into practice.

## Related publications:

- [A Bereavement Charter for Children and Adults in Scotland](#)
- [Bereavement Charter for Children & Adults in Scotland: What does it mean for health and social care professionals?](#)
- [National Taskforce for Human Rights: leadership report](#)



**Bereavement Charter for Children and Adults in Scotland**

**Bereavement Charter FOR SCOTLAND**

This Charter provides a set of statements which describe how in Scotland we can support a person or a group of people experiencing bereavement. Good bereavement care is a human right. This Charter is underpinned by a desire to make sure that in Scotland, we can do all that we can to support people who might be experiencing difficulties following the death of someone they know or somebody in their community. It is the responsibility of everyone within Scotland to ensure that this is achieved. These are our statements:

**IN SCOTLAND, PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN BEREAVED SHOULD:**

- be treated with compassion, empathy and kindness
- have their wishes, choices and beliefs listened to, considered and respected by all

**SCOTLAND SHOULD BE A PLACE WHERE:**

- grief, bereavement and death are recognised as a natural part of life
- there is an open culture which is supportive of people having the opportunity to grieve
- accessing support (including emotional, practical, financial, social, and spiritual) is seen as a right
- efforts are made to ensure that adequate bereavement support is accessible for everyone
- people have space and time to grieve
- it is recognised that bereavement might affect all aspects of a person's life (e.g. relationships, school, workplace)

**IN SCOTLAND, PEOPLE ARE SUPPORTIVE OF FRIENDS, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN BEREAVED, WHICH MEANS THAT:**

- people's needs and grief reactions are recognised and acknowledged as being different at different times
- grief and bereavement can begin before death and can be lifelong
- people who have been bereaved should feel supported to talk about the person who has died if they wish to
- bereavement and grieving can be experienced by the whole community and not just by individuals
- there is help to know where to refer or signpost people to for additional support

The Charter and additional information can be found at [www.scottishcare.org/bereavement](http://www.scottishcare.org/bereavement)



SupportAroundDeath@nes.scot.nhs.uk

This poster is part of the SPPC Poster Parade 2021



# Previous work, challenge, and approach

## Previous Work

Recognition of inequalities in bereavement care across Scotland

## Challenge

For Scotland to be the best place to live and to die

To create a resource that clearly sets out standards for how to achieve better bereavement experiences in Scotland for all



## Approach

- Bereavement Charter Development Group established 13 statements on best bereavement care for children and adults based on human rights principles
- Explanation of the Charter statements with information on how all people can use the Charter
- Launched across Scotland in Spring of 2020
- Bereavement Charter group continue to develop ways of extending and embedding the Charter into practice across all aspects of society

# Techniques and Methods

## Animations

As part of ongoing development of the Charter an animation was created to support health and social care staff to embed the principles of the Charter into practice - [Bereavement Charter Film](#)



## Webinars

A series of webinars continue to enable awareness and aim to support society's knowledge and skills around supporting bereavement experiences in Scotland



## Recognition

Logo and Charter Mark have been developed to be easily recognisable and used universally



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# Results and Conclusions

## Achievements

- Successful launch across Scotland of the Charter and Charter mark
- Delivery of 2 webinars
- Launch of an animation for health and social care professionals

## Continuous improvement and future developments

- Continue to embed the Charter into all aspects of Scottish society ensuring that bereavement care is enhanced
- Ensuring the Charter continues to be accessible and raising awareness by reaching different groups
- Support learning around key themes
- Collaborative working with Northern Ireland – furthering the reach of the effectiveness of having bereavement standards and the importance of these wherever someone lives and dies

“Listening, supporting and guidance is the key to empathy. Delighted this resource has been published to help every single person that is experiencing grief”

Julie Morrison, Baby Loss Retreat

“The new Bereavement Charter is welcome, much-needed resource for people of all ages dealing with loss and grief. It will offer crucial support, particularly during these most uncertain and unprecedented times.”

Jeane Freeman, Cabinet Secretary for Health

“This short animation is a simple yet very informative resource which raises awareness of the Scottish Bereavement Charter and highlights the basic principles of good practice in supporting those who are bereaved.....”

Bereavement Midwife, NHS Lanarkshire



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