

Family Suicide Bereavement Practitioner

Job Description and Person Specification



Family Suicide Bereavement Practitioner

Hours	30 hours per week
Salary Scale	Grade 3
Salary	£28,164 pro rata
Contract	Until September 2025, possible extension subject to further funding
Location	Based in Kirklees with regular travel to Leeds and various locations across West Yorkshire
Annual Leave	28 days a year plus 8 Statutory holidays, rising to 31 days after 3 years
Pension	3% employer contribution, 5% employee contribution, enhanced by salary exchange
Probationary Period	6 months
Reporting to	Senior Suicide Bereavement Practitioner
DBS Check Level	Enhanced DBS

Introduction

Leeds Mind is the city's leading mental health charity. We have faith and optimism in our clients and so the services we deliver are built around their needs. We support the people of Leeds and West Yorkshire to discover their own resources to 'recover' from periods of poor mental health, and to live life independently with their mental health condition.

Our values of Being Open, Supportive, Brave, Connected and Resourceful are pivotal to the work we do.

Purpose of the role

West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (WY ICB) and Public Health in Leeds commission the delivery of 'Postvention' services to support people bereaved by suicide across West Yorkshire. Kirklees Public Health have funded a Family Suicide Bereavement Practitioner to support individuals, children, young people, and families in the immediate aftermath of a suicide. The service also supports people who have been bereaved in the past. Postvention is an internationally evidenced way of reducing risk of suicide in people who have been bereaved in this manner. Interventions offered within this service include peer led support for individuals, within groups and for families with children.

The post holder will be responsible for a mixture of individual and family group interventions with parents, carers, children, and young people to improve outcomes for families and children after suicide bereavement. By working in partnership with parents/carers and schools/colleges we aim to strengthen parental capacity and family relationships as well as educate schools and colleges on how best to support their pupils and colleagues after a bereavement by suicide.

The post holder will be employed by Leeds Mind, provide support throughout Kirklees and part of the regional team, based at different locations offering a range of interventions to people who have been bereaved by suicide. These include:

1. **Assessment of need** to identify the appropriate intervention to meet their needs
2. **1.1 support** for up to 6 sessions including practical, advocacy and emotional support
3. **Group support** including skills course and peer support groups

You will carry a caseload of people referred to the service and will ideally have access to a vehicle to carry out this role.

Main Tasks and Responsibilities

- Support families and schools after a bereavement by suicide.
- Promote and facilitate parental/school understanding of a child's/employee's needs.
- Develop and maintain a supportive and empowering relationship with referred families.
- Make referrals and liaise with schools and other services on behalf of people you are supporting.
- Deliver appropriate support interventions to a caseload of clients accessing the service including 1 to 1, group and family support.

- Facilitate training around bereavement skills and experience of suicide bereavement.
- Provide rota cover when needed for group delivery for the wider service.
- Provide up to two gateway assessments a week for the wider service.
- Contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the project.
- Develop and maintain links with potential referrers and promote the service.
- Attend national conferences, steering group meetings and networking events as requested.
- Contribute to the development of publicity and promotion materials.

Promotion, Outreach and Liaison

- Develop and maintain links with potential referrers and to promote the service.
- To attend national conferences, steering group meetings and networking events as requested.
- To contribute to the development of publicity and promotion materials.

Organisation

- Participate in 1:1s, performance and development, including Leeds Mind compulsory training programme
- Undertake any staff development and training which is required, to enable the job to be performed in the best possible way
- Attend and participate in service/team meetings
- Work within the framework of Leeds Mind's policies and procedures
- Promote the values, behaviours and ethos of Leeds Mind and West Yorkshire Health & Care Partnership
- Promote the possibilities for empowerment of service users
- Demonstrate a commitment to personal development
- Be involved with wider organisation activities
- Undertake any other reasonable duties as and when required

This job description cannot cover every issue or task that may arise within the post at various times and the post-holder will be expected to carry out other duties from time to time which are broadly consistent with those in this document. This job description does not form part of the contract of employment.

It is Leeds Mind's policy to make reasonable adjustments to enable workers with a disability/ disability to undertake the above, including the interview process.

Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge/ Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The impact of being bereaved by suicide• Theories of grief	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The principles, philosophy and practical applications of the Peer Support and the Person-Centred Approach • Knowledge and awareness of your own support needs when sharing your own lived experience of being affected by suicide. • Knowledge of services in Kirklees • Understanding of child Safeguarding policies and procedures. • Knowledge of childhood grief theory and child development. 	
Skills/Ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent organisational, time management and administration skills • Able to use a wide range of IT skills effectively • Able to work effectively with people who have experienced traumatic grief • Able to work calmly with people who have suicidal thoughts and feelings and to sensitively assess risk • Able to provide person centred one to one support to people in acute distress • Able to refer to appropriate services and liaise effectively with professionals • Able to support volunteer facilitators • Able to reflect on your own attitudes towards mental health and your own practice • Able to mediate and negotiate both internally and externally • Able to work as part of a team and to provide support to colleagues • Able facilitate and deliver peer support groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car Driver with access to a vehicle and the means to travel across the region
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Personal experience of being affected by a suicide and in a place where using this experience daily is manageable and non-detrimental to yourself.</u> • Experience of supporting people who have experienced trauma/emotional distress, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of services, including use of social media and websites • Supporting people by advocating for their needs

	<p>including children, young people and families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of facilitation of peer led groups 	
<p>Behavioural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of and commitment to the values and work of Leeds Mind and West Yorkshire Health Care Partnership • Lives our Leeds Mind values every day – Kindness, Hope, Empowerment, Respect, Inclusion, Support. • Commitment to continuous improvement • Open to change and able to work flexibly in line with the needs of the service/organisation. • Commitment to working in partnership with clients, management and staff. • Understanding of the challenges faced by people experiencing mental health difficulties • Demonstrate a commitment to equality and diversity in the workplace • Commitment to safeguarding clients and others you may meet as part of your role • Commitment to solution focussed working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lived experience of mental health difficulties.