

Every life matters ...

Job Description

Suicide Bereavement Service Co-ordinator

Nov 2019



“Talking about suicide saves”

Registered Charity No. 1180815

Job Description

Job Title:	Suicide Bereavement Service Co-ordinator
Salary:	£25,500
Hours:	Full Time - 37 hours per week
Contract:	Permanent
Employer:	Every Life Matters
Accountable:	Chief Officer
Base:	Flexible - Home working or Office Based

On average **one person a week** dies by suicide in Cumbria. Bereavement by suicide shares characteristics with other bereavements but it is also different. It can be particularly severe and traumatic, and the grieving process is often complicated and typically lasts longer than other types of bereavement.

It is estimated that every death detrimentally impacts over **30 people** - family, friends, colleagues, neighbours, care workers, emergency services and so on - equating to around **1,560 people** per year in Cumbria. Family and friends closest to the person lost to suicide are likely have their physical and mental health and significantly impacted for many years after the death.

Every Life Matters has secured long term funding to develop specific Suicide Bereavement Support Services in Cumbria. Our partnership based approach, consisting of a mix of newly funded and existing services, will introduce timely and appropriate support for people and communities bereaved and affected by suicide. Offering flexible interventions that change over time with the needs of the individual.

The service will be delivered via a Partnership of **Every Life Matters, Child Bereavement UK, Samaritans, Cruse, SBS (formerly SOBS) and the Coroners Court Support Service**. The service will integrate with Cumbria Police Real Time Alerts to ensure that people bereaved by suicide in the County are able to access support from the very early stages of their bereavement.

We are looking to recruit a **Suicide Bereavement Service Co-ordinator** who can deliver flexible and person centred support to individuals in the early stages of bereavement across Cumbria, to manage referrals to the service, and to ensure appropriate signposting to service partners.

This is an exciting opportunity for a suitably skilled individual to help shape an exciting new service in the County for those bereaved or affected by suicide. We are looking for a highly resilient individual, with relevant experience of frontline support work, who is able to support traumatised and distressed individuals, families and communities in a person centred and highly compassionate manner. And though the service will work with relatively small numbers of people its work will have a high impact.

The post holder will work widely across Cumbria and we will offer flexibility about working base – which can be either home based or office based with one of our service Partners across the County.

Closing date for applications is **Monday 25th November 2019** - Interviews during week of **2nd December 2019**.

If you would like to discuss the post please contact Chris Wood at chris.wood@every-life-matters.org.uk or call 07908 537541

This post is funded by the Lottery Community Fund.



Main Responsibilities

Service Referrals
1. Manage all new service referrals and self-referrals, including from Police Real Time Alert System
Initial Outreach and Assessment
2. Provide face-to-face or telephone based assessment/gateway meetings for all new referrals. 3. Initiate contact within 48 hours to bereaved individuals/families after Police Real Time Alerts. 4. Provide all new referrals with suicide bereavement information packs.
Information and Signposting
5. Provide all new referrals/self-referrals with suicide bereavement information packs. 6. Ensure all key service gatekeepers have access to good quality suicide bereavement information and signposting materials. 7. Maintain up to date knowledge of relevant local referral routes and support services
One to One Support
8. Provide practical and emotional support to individuals and families across Cumbria in early stages of bereavement (from 48 hours through to one year) through up to 6 face-to-face meetings, including; Appropriate referral and signposting. Support managing practical issues such as finances, housing, employment, funeral arrangements etc. Support informing people about the death. Liaison and meeting attendance with key agencies including engagement with media, Coroners Court etc. Normalisation of reactions and responses within bereavement. Developing emotional and behavioural coping strategies. Safety planning for suicide risk. Advocacy and representation. 9. Ensure on-going/regular check-in with individuals referred to the service over a set number of years.
Psychoeducational Groups
10. Promote and co-ordinate a timetabled delivery of 'Facing the Future' psycho-educational suicide bereavement groups - actual group delivery to be carried out by service partners.
Support for those exposed and affected by suicide
11. Provide advice, support and information for wider communities, workplaces, and education providers affected by or exposed to suicide in collaboration with service partners.
Training
12. Work with service partners to develop an annual CPD plan and manage partnership training budget. 13. Promote Every Life Matters Suicide Bereavement Awareness Training to frontline public, private, charity and community sector frontline workers.
Service Promotion and Awareness Raising
14. Undertake service promotion through a range of networking, presentations and media work. 15. Support delivery of an annual large scale event for those bereaved by suicide eg Walk of Hope.
Volunteers
16. Identify relevant and manageable volunteer opportunities within the service. 17. Recruit, train and support volunteers as opportunities arise.
Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
18. Provide reports to the Suicide Bereavement Leadership Group and Service Steering Group 19. Contribute as required to donor reporting, visits and engagement. 20. Manage project monitoring/evaluation frameworks, and support external evaluation activity.
General Duties
21. Attend regular line management supervision and annual appraisal 22. To identify and implement appropriate your own CPD opportunities 23. To implement ELM Health & Safety Policy/Procedure, including Lone Working Practice 24. To undertake any duties or tasks relevant to the project as required.

Person Specification

No	Criteria	Essential	Desirable
1	Minimum three years' experience working in a frontline role in a helping profession	E	
2	Demonstrate experience of supporting people affected by suicide or other complex trauma		D
3	Able to demonstrate a commitment to a compassionate, creative and client focused approach within your work.	E	
4	Able to demonstrate high levels of resilience in pressurised situations, the ability to self-monitor and work under your own initiative.	E	
5	Demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively in a wide variety of situations and contexts	E	
6	Hold knowledge of relevant local support services, and can demonstrate experience of facilitating multi-agency involvement in client support		D
7	Understand and follow best practice regarding information governance, safeguarding & confidentiality.	E	
8	Able to demonstrate awareness and understanding of equality issues and there relevance to the work of the service.	E	
9	Demonstrate excellent written/oral presentation skills and a sound experience of MS Office and other commonly used software.	E	
10	Qualification in Social Work, Community Work, Counselling, Psychotherapy, Advice Work or similar.		D
11	Commitment to work on occasional evenings or weekends when required in response to client need and urgent referrals.	E	
12	Have full driving licence, access to own car and able to travel across Cumbria	E	

Every Life Matters

Every Life Matters was founded in November 2018 by a group of individuals either personally affected by suicide or from the local third/private sector with a specific interest/expertise in suicide prevention.

We strive to take a fresh, innovative and long term approach to suicide prevention and suicide bereavement support in Cumbria - a county that has had suicide rates well above the national average for too many years.

To achieve our charitable aims, of reducing death by suicide and ensuring those bereaved have timely and effective support, we will deliver two key strands of activity; Developing **Suicide Safer Communities**, and establishing a Cumbria wide **Suicide Bereavement Service**.

We launched our first two Safer Community Projects in Barrow and Copeland in May 2019, and will expand our work across the rest of the County over 2020.

In January 2020 we will be launching a new Suicide Bereavement Service in Cumbria. Working in partnership with other local agencies the service will offer flexible and early engagement support for family, friends and communities impacted by suicide.

Suicide Bereavement Service

Every Life Matters has secured long term funding to develop Suicide Bereavement Support Services in Cumbria. Our partnership based approach, consisting of a mix of newly funded and existing services, will introduce timely and appropriate support for people and communities bereaved and affected by suicide. Offering flexible interventions that change over time with the needs of the individual.

The service will be delivered via a Partnership of

- **Every Life Matters** – Partnership co-ordination and central referral point. Service delivery of one-to-one support, information and signposting, and community focused support (New services)
- **Child Bereavement UK** – Support for children and families bereaved by suicide + schools support (Expanding existing local provision)
- **Samaritans** – ‘Facing the Future’ psychoeducational groups + ‘Step by Step’ organizational bereavement support (New services)
- **CRUSE** – Suicide Bereavement Counselling Support (Expanding existing local provision)
- **SOBS Cumbria** – Peer support groups for people bereaved by suicide (Existing provision)
- **Coroners Court Support Service** – Coroners Court Inquest Support (Existing provision)

The service will link in to Cumbria Police Real Time Alerts system ensuring where a suspected death by suicide occurs that support can be offered to the family within 48 hours.

Suicide in Cumbria

- Around **55 people** die by suicide in Cumbria each year, over three times the number who die on our rural roads. Cumbria suicide rates are consistently higher than the England average, with our coastal communities in particular hovering around **50% above the England average**, some of the highest in the North of England.
- Based on Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey Data approximately **1 in 5 people will have thoughts of suicide** during their lifetime, and a further **1 in 15 will make some form of suicide attempt**. Of the current Cumbrian adult population this equates to approximately 80,000 having thoughts of suicide, and 26,000 making a form of suicide attempt during their lifetime. **1 in 17 adults, or approximately 23,500 Cumbrian residents, will have thoughts of suicide each year.**
- Suicide remains the biggest killer our young people, of men under the age of 50, and women under the age of 35. Over **75% of suicides in Cumbria are men**, mirroring the England average.
- It is estimated that every death detrimentally impacts around **30 people** (family, friends, colleagues, neighbours, care workers, emergency services and so on) – equating to around 1,650 people per year in Cumbria.
- Every suicide is estimated to cost society around **£1.6 million** (costs associated to the death, inquests, lost taxes, lost working hours and health and wellbeing costs associated to those bereaved and so on).
- Only around **25 % of people** in Cumbria are in contact with mental health support when they take their own life, mirroring the England average. A combination of stigma attached to disclosing thoughts of suicide, and lack of understanding about the signs and causes of suicide risk, mean we need to shift the focus of suicide prevention away from our specialist services and make them everyone's concerns. Suicide is everyone's business.
- **Suicides are preventable deaths.**

 every-life-matters.org.uk

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