**Brief Solution Focused Bereavement Support across Essex**

**2022**

**Grant Prospectus**

**To be read in conjunction with the Grant Agreement**

**March 2022 – March 2023**

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**Introduction**

The impact of COVID-19 has been and continues to be devastating, not least for those losing loved ones to the disease who are finding themselves isolated, vulnerable, and/or suffering from mental health issues in addition to dealing with their grief. The impact on services has led to a demand for bereavement support with many people wanting to access this type of service.

Most bereaved people will manage their grief with support of family, friends and neighbours and it is only a small proportion (10-20%) who benefit from professional intervention. However, it is evident that the existing level of provision for grief and bereavement support does not meet the current demand or provide the necessary early intervention support residents need.

There is clear evidence that early intervention support is vital in terms of grief and bereavement, not least because it will support the achieving of better, longer term, sustainable outcomes.

1. **Purpose of the brief solution focused bereavement support service offer**
   1. The latest Essex research has evidenced that there are an increasing number of people in need of bereavement support, at a time when services are already overwhelmed, and the council has made available a one-off fund of £400,000 to deliver bereavement support.
   2. It is intended the support will be offered for both adults and children
   3. Bereavement is associated with an increased risk of mortality, physical and

mental health problems (such as anxiety and depression), relationship difficulties and difficulties coping with everyday life.

* 1. Organised bereavement support can reduce the use of health care services, including GP consultations and social care.

1. **Outcomes**

2.1 The outcomes to be delivered are:

* People will experience improved mental health
* People will be less isolated and lonely
* People will know how, when, and where to access on-going support
* People will have the opportunity to develop increased personal resilience whilst adjusting to their loss

1. **Principles of the Service**
   1. The principles of the service are:

* People will be able to access bereavement support in a timely way in order to prevent crisis
* People will be able to access support when they need it
* People will receive the support in a way that suits them either face to face in person or on-line or a combination of both. The support can also be delivered in a group format.
* People will be more informed about bereavement and where to find on-going support.
* It is expected that the total funding of £400,000, allocated to different organisations will ensure a minimum of **1200** people receive the bereavement support they need.

1. **The Grant Size, Geographic Model**
   1. Grants of £100,000 per quadrant will be made for the delivery of a local Essex bereavement support offer to reach a minimum of 300 people per quadrant award (note – principles of service\* and organisations will be required to evidence cost per person).
   2. The total grant funding of £400,000 will be split with £100,000 per quadrant available for bereavement support.
   3. Quadrants are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mid Essex**  Braintree  Chelmsford  Maldon | **North-East Essex**  Colchester  Tendring | **South Essex**  Brentwood  Basildon  Rochford  Castle Point | **West Essex**  Uttlesford  Harlow  Epping Forest |

* 1. The awards will be made following due diligence checks and in compliance with the state aid rules. The successful applicant will be required to sign a grant agreement for the delivery of this work.
  2. Bids will be scored according to a scoring methodology within the grant application form. Commissioners will be seeking to ensure that there is a good spread of support across the Essex Local Authority area, maximising coverage of districts.
  3. The programme will be delivered across the Essex local authority area.

1. **The Delivery Model**
   1. Grants of £100,000 will support a minimum of 300\*peopleto access solution focused bereavement support when they require it regardless of ethnicity, gender, culture, religion, special educational and/or disability needs, who have an identified need to access the intervention offered.
   2. The grant recipient will have the ability to deliver their brief solution focused bereavement support to children, young people and adults.
   3. The grant recipient will offer their brief solution focused bereavement support face to face either in person or on-line or a combination of both. The support can also be delivered in a group format. It is expected that the provider will be flexible and adaptable and offer support in accordance with the wishes of participants.
   4. The grant recipient will have developed appropriate and jointly planned strategies and pathways for individuals’ exit from the support being delivered.
2. **The Approach**
   1. The **Service** will be delivered as outlined in the bid application, as per the document inserted below:



1. **Mobilisation**

7.1 Organisations will mobilise their response quickly, in accordance with the proposal set out in their grant application and in section 5 above

7.2 The service will be fully mobilised within one month of the commencement of the grant.

1. **Period of Funding and Payment Structure**
   1. The service will commence within one month following the return of the signed grant agreement.
   2. The grant will be paid in one single instalment within one week of the return of the signed grant agreement
   3. The service will be delivered over a period of 12 months, and will start no later than 31st March 2022
   4. Organisations will provide accounts to ECC to show how they have allocated the funds. Any grant monies held by the grant recipient that remains unspent by the end of March 2023will be returned to ECC.
2. **Restriction of Grant Use**
   1. The grant cannot be used for:
      * Costs to existing core services/ delivery not related to the programme.
      * Core staff expenses not directly related to this programme
      * Capital expenditure not directly related to this programme
      * Rent or utility bills not directly related to this programme
      * Goods or services received before the award of this funding
      * Activities that promote a particular religious belief or political cause
      * Loan repayments
3. **Monitoring Arrangements**
   1. Self-monitoring returns will be required at the end of the grant period on pro-forma agreed with the grant recipient and provided by ECC, as attached below.



10.2 As part of the monitoring arrangements, organisations must report on qualitative and quantitative measures as requested by ECC.

10.3 At the end of the grant period, the recipient will deliver feedback to ECC demonstrating the impact the grant has made on residents, which will include or be made by those who have benefited from the grant. This may be in any format, including written, film or audio.

10.4 At the end of the grant period, the recipient will also feedback to ECC where they have identified additional needs / gaps in support in the communities in which they are working to help inform our future commissioning.

10.5 There will be a minimum of two contacts with providers during the course of the grant. Additional contacts/visits may be carried out where it is judged these are necessary, to ensure all grants are used in accordance with the Grant Agreement.

10.6 As part of our commitment to involve the public in service development and improvement, contacts and visits may include those who are or have used the service

10.7 As part of the monitoring arrangements, organisations must report on qualitative and quantitative measures as requested by ECC.

1. **Safeguarding**

11.1 Successful applicants will take all reasonable steps to support vulnerable children, young people or vulnerable adults (“vulnerable people”) worked with and will take all reasonable steps to ensure their safety.

11.2 Successful Applicants must 1) apply the Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) safeguarding and child protection procedures, 2) obtain the written agreement from the legal carer or guardian before having any direct contact with any vulnerable person, and 3) have an appropriate written policy and set of procedures in place that will be followed at all times to safeguard vulnerable people.

11.3 All staff will be appropriately qualified, and disclosure checks for all employees, volunteers, trustees or contractors who will supervise, care for or otherwise have significant direct contact with vulnerable people are up to date and in place.

11.4 Successful applicants will have clear procedures in place for safe delivery online and online safeguarding.

1. **Social Value**

12.1 Delivering social value is about understanding the needs of our communities and developing a targeted approach based on that understanding.

12.2 The recipient will support in improving health outcomes for people in local communities.

12.3 Vulnerable people are supported to build stronger community networks.

12.4 ECC reserves the right to request additional information to support the social value agenda if required.