



**Consultation
Response Form**

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Introduction to the Wales Safer Communities Network

The Wales Safer Communities Network was established in January 2021 following the recommendations of the Welsh Government's Working Together for Safer Communities Review. The Network aims to become the strategic voice for community safety in Wales, working collaboratively to champion and support community safety partnership working, and influence the shaping and development of national policy and local practice.

1: Is it clear who this bereavement framework is for and why it has been developed?

YES

If the answer is no please tell us below what can we do to achieve this?

It appears to be clear that it is for those who need bereavement services and those who may be delivering or referring to it.

2. How can the provision of and access to bereavement services for people with protected characteristics (section 4) be improved?

Please provide your suggestions below



Age specific support for children and young people to protect them from County Lines and other forms of exploitation.

Culturally appropriate, but needs to consider that if people are self-medicating using illegal substances or alcohol that these may not be acceptable in those cultures and therefore accessing services within own culture or geographical area may not be possible due to stigma etc that comes with them.

Male specific services may be needed which are specifically designed.

LGBTQI+ services may need to take into consideration that the bereaved may be excluded from family arrangements. How friends and significant others cope with a person's funeral being done under a 'dead' name. This may lead to increased tensions at places of rest.

3: Are there any other models / programmes of support (Section 6) which should be referenced in the Framework?

Is the framework clear in outlining responsibilities across all areas of health and social care for considering support needs and addressing gaps in bereavement provision?

YES/NO

Please provide details below:

Unsure, it is unclear for if a bereaved person is currently incarcerated or if they are in hospital themselves.

4: Does the Learning from Covid-19 section (Section 9) sufficiently cover the lessons learned during the pandemic, and the action that needs to be taken to make sure that high quality bereavement care and support is available to everyone who needs it in Wales?

NO

If no, please tell us below how this could be made clearer and what else should be included.



There is no consideration for those who are incarcerated and how they will access services both in and if released during bereavement services support.

Bereavements can lead to additional family breakdown and extra elements such as homelessness, so those services need to be aware.

Mental Health is mentioned but not the risks of self-medicating, such as substance abuse. Alcohol abuse or undertaking more risky behaviour including sexual or self-harm.

Sudden and expected deaths can include suicide, accidents and violent crime. The support that bereaved need may be different in each of these circumstances. It is important to note that in these instances the police are partners involved with the bereaved as well.

5: How can the provision of and access to bereavement services for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities be improved? (Section 10).

Please provide your suggestions below:

Engage with communities, develop with and not just do to them.

Take into consideration that some bereaved may not be able to seek support within their geographical area or within communities, as it could be seen as weakness or due to partaking in activities that are not acceptable to that community (eg substance misuse, drinking alcohol).

Provision of bereavement services in a range of languages so that they are accessible to more people including those with limited English and Welsh.

6. Do you consider that the section on Training, Learning and Supervision for individuals providing bereavement support and for professionals who come into contact with people who are bereaved (Section 11) can be strengthened to address bereavement workforce, education and recruitment issues?

YES

Please provide details below:

Consideration around comorbidities with other areas such as substance misuse, mental health need to be considered.



A greater emphasis on the safeguarding especially in regards to children and young people and the risks of exploitation during bereavement.

Opportunities for engagement with communities to reduce isolation and loneliness as a result of a bereavement.

Training, Learning and Supervision for Individuals Providing Bereavement Support should be strengthened to consider the wider, sensitive, needs of those bereaved where the death is associated with crime and/or abuse.

7: Does the section on referral pathways (section 12) provide sufficient information about the route people can take to access bereavement support?

NO

If the answer is no, please provide details of how this can be achieved.

There is no clear pathway route for those who may have contact with the police following a sudden death.

How a person who is incarcerated will be able to access services.

How to reach children and young people, who may use different communication tools to adults.

8: Are there other forms of self-management/self-care (section 13) that should be referenced in the framework?

YES

If the answer is yes, please provide details of the approaches below:

There needs to be reference to the risks of self-medication and to remain safe themselves.

9. Do the Bereavement Standards (Annex 1) set out what areas need to be addressed in order for bereavement support services to be both safe and effective in meeting the needs of bereaved people? Is it clear who is responsible for delivering these standards?



YES/NO

If no, please provide details of how this can be achieved.

It is clear as far as it goes. It does not explain how to reach those incarcerated.

It does not offer additional areas of support for the bereaved where deaths may cause civic unrest and risk community safety. Where on top of the bereavement there may also be a justified or unjustified feelings of unfairness – which may be increased by community tensions and a lack of community cohesion.

10. We are interested in your views on how the Welsh Government can ensure that the bereavement framework/standards are appropriately monitored and evaluated? Is it clear how the implementation of the framework will be monitored to see if it will have a practical effect on the provision of bereavement care in Wales?

Please provide your suggestions below:

11. We would like to know your views on the effects that the Draft National Framework for the Delivery of Bereavement Care in Wales would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

Providing information, advice and services in English and Welsh should positively treat Welsh and English equally.

However, given the emphasis on Black, Asian Minority Ethnic communities in the consultation it may also be appropriate to look at provision on other languages as well.

12: Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy Draft National Framework for the Delivery of Bereavement Care in Wales could be formulated or



changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

13: We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, including on any missing actions/next steps that you think the National Bereavement Steering Group should take please use this space to report them:

The need for engagement around community safety with the risk of potential anger leading to Anti-social behaviour, arson, risky behaviour, alcohol abuse and substance misuse all of which could increase the issues initially caused by bereavement.

Links to VAWDASV services, which may be appropriate following a violent death, but also if a perpetrator has died (with no links) and the person is suddenly free. For example, a married woman who after 40+ years suddenly has access to money for the first time – or doesn't as they can't find the information.

Bereavement support which may be needed at the time but also at a later date if the bereaved have to re-live it all through a court case.

Annex 4 covers links to other guidance/framework documents. We would suggest the need for further consideration around non-devolved areas and their interactions with bereavement care. In particular, the justice system, taking into consideration the victims code. For example, around Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), there is specific information on the involvement of family, friends and other support networks in section 6 of the statutory guidance (see link below). As these are in almost all circumstances also going to be those who may require bereavement services it is important that these are taken into consideration by those providing bereavement support or providing advocacy around the DHRs themselves. This may also need closer partnership working and links between advocacy and other support for DHRs and bereavement support services.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/575273/DHR-Statutory-Guidance-161206.pdf