

Supporting Bereaved Children and Young People



What are the aims of the course?

The overall aim of this course is to provide trainees with a supportive context in which they can develop those theoretical, conceptual and practical skills and insights, which will enable them to become highly competent supporters of bereaved children and young people and their families/carers. In response to the disruption of familiar pathways to learning, Cruse Scotland has adapted its services to reflect the new realities and opportunities in communication. This course redesign reflects the digital shared learning experience that has come to the fore as a result of the pandemic. The course allows for the inclusion of in-person learning within its later units. The course will resource candidates to support bereaved children, young people and their families through a variety of mediums and contexts.

Course requirements

The opportunity to bring practice experience into the training environment enriches the learning experience for the whole group. Trainees will be required to be in a supportive working relationship with bereaved children/young people who are clients of Cruse Scotland from unit 4 onwards of the course.

Who is this course suitable for?

The course is open to those who have experience in working with CYP, and/or interest in furthering skills in working with bereaved children and young people. The learning will provide experience relateable to other CYP roles and contexts.

Cruse Scotland will be looking for evidence that you demonstrate the following:

- **Knowledge of children/young people's development**
- **Knowledge of children/young people's rights and needs**
- **Understanding of general bereavement theory**
- **Experience of working with CYP**
- **Well-developed listening and communicating skills**
- **A clear understanding of and commitment to working with Children's Rights and ethical frameworks.**

The application has 3 stages:

1. Applicants will be asked to complete an application form which includes a self-assessment statement of 250-500 words.
2. Successful applicants will be invited to an informal interview with the Area Manager for their locality and our Volunteer Development Manager.
3. Following a successful outcome at interview candidates submit the 3rd stage task of their own personal learning needs in relation to their understanding of GIRFEC (Getting It Right for Every Child).

What is the course content?

Over the course of 6 modules, trainees explore these themes in depth:

- **Supporting bereaved CYP in the context of family, community, and society**
- **Models of child development including attachment and neuroscience**
- **Working safely and confidently with grief in order to resource CYP, their families and their community**
- **Creative and therapeutic working models including digital medium**
- **The contracting of support and the evaluation of 'help'**
- **The importance of informal and formal review and supervision.**

Does the training involve course work?

This is an assessed course. Trainees will be assessed against learning outcomes and trainer(s) comments on the course. The training will include learning through written assignments, participation in large and small group discussions, supervision, tutor and peer interaction. Trainees will be asked to complete the following:

- A short, written piece if successful after interview
- A Learning Journal
- A written assignment: *The needs of a bereaved child/young person and how a professional supporter might assist them* (2000 - 2500 words)
- Supervised Practice Report (2000-2500 words)

Before you apply

Your experience of loss: As a leading grief support organisation we know that our own experience of loss influences our perspectives and decision making, this may affect our participation in the training. This course is not suitable for anyone who has experienced a recent significant bereavement.

Prospective trainees who identify as bereaved and may be unsure whether they are eligible for this course or who have any questions about equivalence and or similar, should contact Cruse Scotland HQ, asking to speak with our Volunteer Development Manager, by email: training@crusescotland.org.uk or phone 01738 444178.

Attendance requirements are integral to this course.

Who are the course providers?

The course content is drawn from course materials produced for Cruse Scotland in partnership with CBUK.

The course utilises contemporary themes of childhood and for supporting CYP within the framework of GIRFEC in Scotland.

This course is delivered and supported by Cruse Scotland as a foundation specialism in grief support. Course content and exercises reflect practice standards held by Cruse Scotland ethical and practice policies.

This course is **NOT** accredited by an external body.

What are the course dates?

The course is delivered over weekends, 10am - 4pm through Zoom platform.

Dates for Spring 2024 to be confirmed by end of December 2023

What is the cost of the course?

The course is delivered free in exchange for volunteering with Cruse Scotland. We request that in return you commit to a minimum of two years volunteer service following successful completion of the training course.

How do I apply to the course?

For an application form please email: training@crusescotland.org.uk or phone 01738 444178.