

Role Description

Role Overview:

The Bereavement Support Volunteer plays a vital role in providing compassionate support to children, young people, and their parent/carers who are experiencing grief. Working as part of a team within our Groupwork programme or at one of our Activity days your role aims to help children, young people and their families process their emotions, develop coping strategies, and feel less isolated in their grief journey.

Key Responsibilities:

- Support groupwork sessions by creating a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment where children, young people, and their families feel heard and valued.
- Offer emotional support by actively listening, providing reassurance, and encouraging participants to express their thoughts and feelings.
- Help children, young people and their families explore and understand their grief in a way that is appropriate to their developmental stage and personal circumstances.
- Work collaboratively with other volunteers and group leaders to ensure the sessions are well-structured, effective, and responsive to the needs of participants.
- Provide practical assistance during sessions, including setting up activities, ensuring a welcoming atmosphere, and managing resources effectively.
- Maintain clear boundaries and uphold a professional, courteous, and confidential relationship with participants, ensuring their privacy and dignity are respected at all times.
- Act as a positive representative of Stand-by-me Bereavement Support Service for Children, promoting its values of empathy, integrity, and respect.
- Recognise and respond appropriately to safeguarding concerns, ensuring that any issues are reported in line with Stand-by-me's policies and procedures.
- Engage in ongoing training and reflective practice to develop skills and stay informed about best practices in bereavement support.
- Contribute to the evaluation and continuous improvement of the service by providing feedback and participating in debrief sessions.

Bereavement Support Volunteer

Key Skills and Attributes:

- Compassionate, empathetic, and non-judgmental approach.
- Strong communication and active listening skills.
- Ability to work as part of a team.
- Understanding of grief and bereavement processes, or willingness to learn.
- Sensitivity to diverse cultural and personal experiences of grief.
- Reliable, committed, and able to maintain confidentiality.
- Remain mindful of your own wellbeing and know when to seek support.

This role offers a meaningful opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of grieving children, young people, and their families, providing them with a compassionate space to navigate their loss and move forward with resilience.