

What is the NES Bereavement Education Programme?

2025 marks the 10-year anniversary of the establishment of NES' Bereavement Education Programme; a novel and unique national, multi-disciplinary and Once for Scotland initiative. It works to increase the preparedness of the health and social care workforce to undertake high-quality bereavement-related care and communication through a broad programme of interprofessional educational and workforce development initiatives.

Who is it for?

- Primarily health & social care staff, but also reach across other public sector groups
- Recent expansion and diversification to develop national resources for the public; co-producing materials with people with lived experience, as part of Scottish Government commissions and via being a founding member of the Bereavement Charter for Children and Adults in Scotland Group.

What is it?

Multi-faceted range of work (aligned to the principles in the UK Bereavement Commission) including:

- Educational resource development (see examples of topics covered below)
- Delivery of a programme of learning events e.g. webinar series and annual conference
- Hosting of a podcast 'Talking about Bereavement'
- Supporting a Network of NHSScotland Board Bereavement Strategic Leads and Coordinators

10

What impact has there been?

- Raising of the profile of bereavement education
- Influencing of curricula
- Supporting the development of a more positive culture toward bereavement and those who are grieving, considering e.g. trauma-informed principles, person-led care and the importance of compassion
- Contributing to tackling health inequities by supporting staff to optimise the quality of bereavement care that all people across Scotland experience
- A focus on minority and potentially marginalised communities
- Presentations at multiple national and international events and conferences
- Completion of other externally commissioned national educational projects (beyond a bereavement theme) in recognition of the knowledge and skills developed within the team

Why is it important?

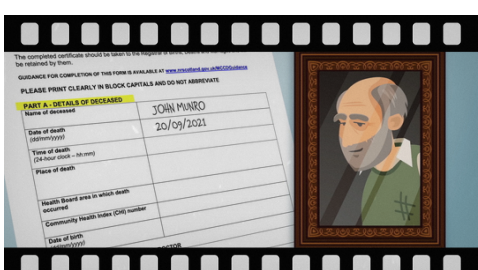
All health and social care staff are likely to come into contact with someone who is bereaved, or a situation around the time of a person's death. This includes those roles which are not directly patient / client-facing.

Knowing how to manage these situations is important – to minimise any further harm to those who are bereaved, ensure equity of support, reduce stigma and the risk of disenfranchised grief. This also has a positive effect on staff wellbeing.

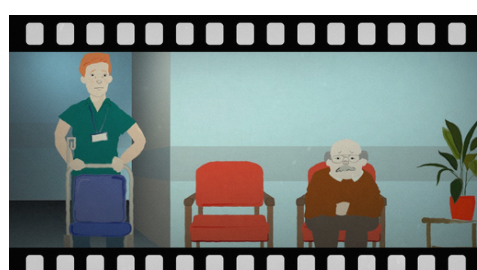
What reach has the work had?

- Scotland-wide, UK and international interest in materials and events
- Film resources viewed >165,000 times
- 2024 Annual Conference saw >1,300 delegate registrations

"Great training resource that would be helpful to many different health and social care professionals."



Death certification in Scotland



Being with people who are bereaved



Delivering news of a death by phone



Discussing dying



Talking about post mortem examinations



Dealing with the death of a colleague