

REFERRAL CRITERIA FOR ALICE HOUSE HOSPICE BEREAVEMENT COUNSELLING SERVICE.

1.0 CHILDREN'S SERVICE

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Alice House Hospice Bereavement Counselling Service is to offer Bereavement Counselling and/or support to meet the individual needs of the child or young person. Referrals may be generated from within the Hospice or Hartlepool and District catchment area.

The service is available to Children and Young People under the age of 18 years in Hartlepool and district who have had a significant person in their life die who may or may not have had previous contact with Alice House Hospice.

Anticipatory Grief Counselling and/or Support is available for Children and Young People when a close family member is attending the Hospice prior to death.

1.2 Referral Criteria for Children and Young People

- The Child or Young Person must have a willingness to engage with the Service.
- The Child or Young Person must be supported through the process by their Parents/Carers.
- If the child is under 16 years they are expected to be brought to appointments and collected by a responsible adult.
- Identification will be requested as noted on the Child Consent Form.
- The Child or Young Person must present with issues relating to Anticipatory Grief or Bereavement.
- The Child or Young Person must be resident in the Hartlepool and district catchment area, or their loved one must have previously attended the Hospice.

1.3 Children and Young People who should not be referred

- A Child or Young Person who has a complex history of mental illness or is involved and receiving therapy from other Mental Health services.
- A Child or Young Person who is exhibiting uncontrolled aggressive behaviour.
- A Child or Young Person who is actively suicidal or chronically self-harming.
- A Child or Young Person who is a significant user of substances or alcohol.
(Individuals will not be seen while under the influence of any substance or alcohol).

- A Child or Young Person who has complex psychiatric and/or social problems which are significantly affecting their functioning and of which bereavement is only a small part.

1.4 Referral Documents and Communication

- All referrals must be made with the consent of the parent/carer.
- External referrals will only be accepted from Health and Social Care professionals on receipt of a completed referral form.
- Parents/Carers can self refer by telephoning the Bereavement Support telephone line.
- The referrer and child's GP will be kept informed of episodes of care, with consent.

2.0 ADULT SERVICE

2.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Alice House Hospice Counselling Service is to offer Bereavement Counselling and to Adults who have had a significant person in their life die in Alice House Hospice.

Referrals to the Adult Service may be generated from within the Hospice or Hartlepool and district catchment area.

Counselling and support is also available to patients themselves or those who have a loved one who is attending the Hospice prior to death.

2.2 Referral Criteria

- The client needs to have made an informed choice to start counselling and needs to be motivated to undertake the process.
- A client needs to have the ability to be able to engage in the counselling/supportive process.
- The client needs to be presenting with issues relating to Anticipatory Grief or Bereavement.
- The client must be resident in Hartlepool and district catchment area or have a loved one attending the Hospice.

2.3 Clients Who Should Not Be Referred

- Individuals who are exhibiting uncontrolled aggressive behaviour.
- Individuals with impaired cognitive ability should be identified on referral.
- Individuals who are actively suicidal or chronically self-harming.
- Individuals who are significant users of substances or alcohol. (Clients will not be seen while under the influence of substances or alcohol).

- Individuals who have complex multiple psychiatric and/or social problems which are significantly affecting their functioning and of which bereavement is only a small part. Some clients, identified on referral, and other clients at the discretion of the Head of Counselling, may be offered counselling in conjunction with other support from Mental Health Services, following assessment.

2.4 Referral Documents and Communication

- All referrals must be made with consent of the client.
- External referrals from Health and Social Care professionals will only be accepted on receipt of a fully completed referral form.
- Clients can self refer by telephoning the Counselling Team on 01429 855550.
- The referrer and client's GP will be kept informed of episodes of care, with consent.

2.5 Appropriateness of Counselling

Once referred, the Counselling Team will determine the appropriateness of the referral.