



Working in Childhood Bereavement Courses at level 6 and 7

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1. Information for prospective students

Hospice UK is the national charity for hospice and end of life care. St Christopher's, a world-leader in care of the dying and those close to them, and St Christopher's Candle Children and Young People's Bereavement Service, an open access community service, have been running courses for people working in childhood bereavement since 2004. The courses are taught by members of the Candle service and visiting lecturers.

In 2009, at re-validation the courses were commended by Middlesex University for:

- their impact on the development of bereavement services across the UK
- the richness of the programmes with practising clinicians and outside experts
- the quality of the support from tutors and the librarian
- their contribution to the personal and career development of students
- the way in which they model good practice of inter-professional work.

In 2023, at re-accreditation the courses were further commended by Middlesex University for:

- a very well thought through programme
- making very good use of range of learning activities
- appropriate applied methods of assessment

While the courses offer a unique opportunity to link theory to practice, they do not lead to any kind of accreditation or contribution to a qualification in clinical practice such as that offered by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy.

2. Why have we developed these courses?

Over the past two decades, there has been an expansion and development in childhood bereavement services. This has resulted in the formation of a national umbrella organisation, the Childhood Bereavement Network (CBN) which has approximately 300 members in the UK.

A range of training days are available but many are aimed at people new to the field. Our courses provide an opportunity for experienced professionals and volunteers to:

- consolidate and extend their practice
- learn new skills
- provide a community of practice with peers
- receive recognition for existing experience and training
- learn about how to set up and develop a childhood bereavement service

As with many child bereavement services, Candle was founded in 1998 and developed out of the pioneering work that had been done with children and families within the hospice setting of St Christopher's, and incorporated education, training and consultancy as core activities from the outset.

Candle has an established history of delivering training to professionals and volunteers, such as teachers, health service professionals, social workers and bereavement counsellors, whose work brings them into contact with bereaved children. From 2000 to 2013, Candle provided the

bereavement input to the Metropolitan Police Family Liaison Officers, training over 1500 of these officers who work with families where the death requires a police investigation. This in turn led to requests for training from the Humanitarian Assistance Unit of the Department of Culture Media and Sport, and the Ministry of Justice.

In 2005 Oxford University press published Brief *Interventions with Bereaved Children*, edited by the then Candle Project Director and Leader. The second edition was published in 2010.

The level of interest and concern in child bereavement is a significant product of the hospice movement. As the national charity for hospice care, Hospice UK works with and supports over 220 local hospices to grow outstanding hospice care for adults and children across the UK, championing the expert, compassionate and free care they provide. We do this through national fundraising initiatives and campaigns, influencing government and decision makers, sharing good practice and practical resources, running education and training programmes, and managing grant programmes. The courses reflect a longstanding close relationship between St Christopher's and Hospice UK and represent a continuation of the pioneering work already undertaken by these two organisations in promoting awareness of loss and bereavement.

Since 1993 Middlesex University has developed an international reputation in the field of accreditation, working with individuals and organisations across the government, public, private and voluntary sectors. They are internationally recognised for innovation and expertise in professional and work-based learning.

For further information on each of the above, see our respective websites:

www.stchristophers.org.uk; <http://www.hospiceuk.org>; www.mdx.ac.uk

3. Programme content

St Christopher's Candle and Hospice UK Working in Childhood Bereavement accredited at Level 6 (40 credits) and Level 7 (40 credits):

Direct Practice: Working with Bereaved Children, Young People and Families:

- Pre-bereavement
- Theories of bereavement
- Child development; loss through the life-cycle; the family context
- Attachment theory and bereavement
- Children bereaved by a traumatic death
- Assessment issues
- Working with individuals, with families and in groups
- Working within intersectionality
- Brief versus extended interventions, telephone work and online support

Context and Framework:

- Service development: assessing need and setting up a service
- Setting standards for service delivery: record-keeping; monitoring and maintaining quality; working with volunteers
- Supervision and support
- Inter-agency working; referral to other services
- Safeguarding
- Children's Mental Health
- Impact and implications of Covid-19 for bereavement services
- Training issues for service providers: resources; methods; reflective practice

4. Who will teach the programmes?

Course tutors

The programmes will be taught and tutored by:

- Emma Lupton, Candle Child Bereavement Coordinator and Course Lead
- Fiona Walkingshaw, Head of Adult and Child Bereavement Services, St Christopher's
- Julia Manning, Senior Palliative Care Social Worker, Epsom and St Helier University NHS Trust

Guest lecturers

Guest lectures will be given by expert practitioners from related disciplines, for example:

- Dr Alison Penny, Director, Childhood Bereavement Network
- Linda McEnhill, Founder of Palliative Care for People with Learning Difficulties Network & CEO St Nicholas' Hospice
- Sacha Richardson, Director of therapeutic services, Terapia. Formerly at Winston's Wish and The Laura Centre.
- Beck Ferrari, Clinical Content Lead at the UK Trauma Council and co-author *My Grief Handbook (2023)*
- Dr Emily Harrop, University of Cardiff and Co Principal Investigator for www.covidbereavement.com

5. How are the courses structured and how will students be assessed?

The courses are taught on a part-time basis over ten months. Students will be required to commit to attending all sessions:

- two in person consecutive sessions (Thursday and Friday) at the beginning and end of the course at CARE, St Christopher's, 51-59 Lawrie Park Road Sydenham London SE26 6DZ.
- one in-person session midway through (Friday) and held at Hospice UK, Hospice House, 34-44 Britannia Street, London, WC1X 9JG.
- six one-day monthly sessions online, held on a Friday

The courses consist of approximately 400 hours of learning including the monthly taught days, self-directed learning and assessments. Students are allocated a tutor who will support them with their learning with regular online and/or phone tutorials

Assessment

Students will be assessed in a variety of ways, including:

- a case discussion and presentation
- two learning journals
- a short individual presentation of a practice technique
- professional and service development plan

6. Resources for students

Teaching venue and library support

St Christopher's has a dedicated education centre at which the two-day sessions will be taught. It has also a specialist library and bookshop which holds copies of core texts and recommended reading for the courses. Library support will be available at both of the sessions

at St Christopher's in order to assist students with their information needs. Students will be able to use the library outside of these sessions and can come in person or contact the library by phone or e-mail with specific requests.

Special needs

St Christopher's has full disabled access. Applicants are asked to indicate on the application form any disability or condition which requires special support.

7. Entry requirements and course fees

Who should apply?

The programmes are open to people with:

- experience in working with bereaved children and their families, for example in education, health or social care
- ability and willingness to participate and learn in face to face and online groups
- ability to communicate ideas verbally and in writing
- a degree for admission to the Advanced Certificate course.

Prospective students should have access to a personal computer and email to facilitate communication with course tutors, administrative staff and other students.

Course fees

Course fees and additional costs for students

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • level 6 (40 credits) | £1800 plus VAT (£2160 inc VAT) |
| • level 7 (40 credits) | £2400 plus VAT (£2880 Inc VAT) |

Students will be invoiced for one-third of the course fees when they confirm acceptance of a place on the course. The balance of the course fee must be paid before the course starts in September 2024.

No part of the course fee will be refunded if a student does not take up their place on the course or if they decide to withdraw once the course has started.

Additional costs

In addition to the registration fees, you will have to fund the cost of travel, overnight accommodation, subsistence, books and occasional photocopying. If you are invited for interview, you will be asked about how you plan to cover the cost of studying.

We can supply information on moderately priced accommodation available near St. Christopher's.

8. Making an application

You will need to complete an application form which will require:

- two references
- a statement (up to 500 words) indicating how a place on the programme would benefit you and the work that you do with children and young people.
- if you apply for the level 7 course, we will ask you to write a review of an academic article or text relating to Childhood Bereavement

Online applications are open now, to apply simply complete the form using the link below by **9am Monday 17 June 2024.**

<https://www.hospiceuk.org/form/childhood-bereavement-course>

Late applications, will be considered but we may not be able to offer a place if the course is full.

All information on how to book can be found on the Hospice UK website

<https://www.hospiceuk.org/innovation-hub/courses-conferences/childhood-bereavement-courses>

9. The selection process

Short-listed applicants will be invited **for an online interview with course tutors.**

Interviews will be mid June / early July 2024.

Interviewees will also be asked to provide details of how they will be funded for the course so you should think about this before the selection day.

If you have any further questions, please contact:

Amber Morgan
Course Programme Manager
Childhood Bereavement Courses
Hospice UK

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10. Calendar 2024 - 2025

Thursday 19 and Friday 20 September 2024	First 2 days at CARE, St Christopher's: Thursday 11am – 5pm Friday 9am – 4.30pm
Friday 11 October 2024	Online 9.30am – 4.30pm
Friday 15 November 2024	Online 9.30am – 4.30pm
Friday 13 December 2024	Online 9.30am – 4.30pm
Friday 17 January 2025	Hospice UK - 9.30am – 4.30pm
Friday 14 February 2025	Online 9.30am – 4.30pm
Friday 14 March 2025	Online 9.30am – 4.30pm
Friday 11 April 2025	Online 9.30am – 4.30pm
Thursday 15 and Friday 16 May 2025	Final 2 days at St Christopher's: Thursday 9.00am – 5pm Friday 9am – 3.30pm
Friday, 30 May 2025	Submission professional and service development plan

11. Possible sources of financial support for students

As stated above, in addition to the registration fees, you will have to fund the cost of travel, overnight accommodation, subsistence, books and occasional photocopying.

With this in mind – and especially if your employer is unlikely to cover some or all of the course fees – we have listed some possible sources of funding which we would encourage you to explore.

The list is by no means exhaustive and may be liable to change. Please let us know if you find any of the information is no longer current – or if you can add to it in any way.

Useful organisations and websites:

Turn2us

www.turn2us.org.uk

Student Finance

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/education/student-finance>

The Skills Funding Agency:

Responsible for funding and planning education and training for over 16 year olds in England (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/education-and-skills-funding-agency>)

Highlands and Islands Enterprise:

Details of Local Enterprise Councils (LECs) for northern and western Scotland (www.hie.co.uk)

The Educational Grants Advisory Services (EGAS):

Offers guidance and advice on funding for those studying in post-16 education in the UK (www.egas-online.org.uk)

Hospice UK

<http://www.hospiceuk.org/what-we-offer/grants>

Please note: The focus of Hospice UK's grant programmes is limited by funders' requirements. Bursaries may be available through various funding programmes. Full details of each programme can be found on the grants pages of the website. Any queries should be sent to grants@hospiceuk.org.

Funding arrangements for part-time students at Middlesex University

<http://www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/scholarships-and-bursaries>

<http://www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/help-with-your-application/undergraduate-application/part-time-study>

Useful publications

- *A Guide to the Major Trusts Vols 1 - 3* (Directory of Social Change, 24 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2DP, Tel: 020 7209 5151), website: www.dsc.org.uk)
- *The Directory of Grant Making Trusts* distributed by Directory of Social Change
- An internet-based service, *Fundinginformation.org*, is available from ProFunding – for more information see www.fundinginformation.org