

JOB DESCRIPTION



Job title:	Child Bereavement Specialist
Department:	Meerkats
Responsible to:	Meerkat Lead
Grade:	SMH Band 6

Job Purpose

To provide specialist pre and post bereavement support to children and young people up to the age of 18 who have a significant adult with a life limiting illness or who have died.

To deliver high quality, developmentally appropriate psychosocial assessments and therapeutic interventions within the adult hospice setting, recognising the unique impact of life limiting illness and bereavement on children and families.

To contribute to the establishment and growth of the Meerkat Service at St Michael's Hospice, drawing on learning from an established model of practice and supporting the development of safe, evidence informed and sustainable provision within North Hampshire.

To work collaboratively with hospice colleagues and external partners to ensure children's needs are identified early and responded to appropriately.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Clinical Practice

- Undertake specialist psychosocial assessments of children, young people and their families.
- Provide individual, family and group based pre and post bereavement support.
- Identify and respond to children's emotional needs pre and post bereavement.
- Liaise with members of the hospice's multi-disciplinary team to identify families requiring support.
- Work collaboratively with schools, health professionals and other agencies (e.g. Children's Social Care and CAMHS).
- Advocate for the needs and rights of children and young people.
- Maintain up-to-date safeguarding training and adhere to hospice safeguarding procedures.

Caseload Management

- Manage a defined caseload independently.
- Prioritise referrals according to clinical need and service capacity.
- Maintain accurate, contemporaneous records in line with hospice policy and professional standards.

Service Development and Evaluation

- Contribute to the ongoing development of the Meerkat Service.
- Support routine data collection and outcome monitoring processes.
- Participate in reflective practice and contribute to evaluation of service impact.

Education and Consultancy

- Provide advice and guidance to hospice colleagues regarding children's needs.
- Deliver training and consultation to schools and external agencies as required.
- Contribute to raising awareness of children's bereavement needs within the hospice and wider community.

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Induction and Service Development Support

- Participate in a structured induction programme, including shadowing and observational learning with the established Meerkat Team at Rowans Hospice in Waterlooville.
- Travel to Rowans Hospice, anticipated at one to two days per week.
- Integrate learning from shadowing into clinical practice within St Michael's Hospice.

Professional Responsibilities

- Participate in regular management and clinical supervision.
- Maintain professional registration where applicable.
- Engage in continuing professional development relevant to palliative care and child bereavement.

Working Conditions

- Home visiting required within locality of Hospice service area.
- Flexible working hours to meet the needs of families.
- Lone working routinely required.
- Regular exposure to intense emotional distress.

General Responsibilities

- Work to maintain the values, vision and aims of St. Michael's Hospice.
- Additional Duties – In discussion with the line manager to undertake work, as and when required, in support of St. Michael's Hospice as an organisation.
- Public Relations – To represent St. Michael's Hospice in the community and public domain, including social media, appropriately.
- Undertake all statutory and mandatory training, as required.
- To be conversant with and adhere to all St. Michael's Hospice Policies and Procedures.
- Be responsible for upholding and promoting St. Michael's Hospice safeguarding policies, ensuring the safety and well-being of all individuals, and promptly reporting any concerns or incidents in accordance with established procedures.
- This is an outline job description and may be subject to change, according to the needs of the service, in consultation with the post holder.
- Take responsibility for own personal safety and of others whilst at work. You will take appropriate action or report any concerns to address any health and safety issues that you or members of your team may be aware of.
- This job description is an outline of the role and responsibilities. From time to time, due to the needs of the service, we may ask you to flexibly undertake other duties that are consistent with your role and banding, including project work, internal job rotation and absence cover.

Reviewed by:	Sophie de Bere, Meerkat Lead	Date:	02-2026
Signed by employee:		Date:	