

PERSON SPECIFICATION



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.

Requirements	Essential	Desirable	Evidence
Education/ Qualifications	Professional qualification at Diploma or Degree level in Social Work, Nursing, Counselling, Psychotherapy or related discipline. Relevant professional registration where applicable.	Post qualifying training in bereavement, trauma or child mental health.	CV / Application Form Certificates
Previous Experience	Post qualifying experience working therapeutically with children, young people and families. Experience of managing an independent caseload. Experience of multi-agency working. Sound knowledge and experience of safeguarding children.	Experience within palliative care or hospice settings. Experience of supporting children through change and loss. Experience planning and delivering group work with children and young people.	CV / Application Form Interview References

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Skills, Knowledge, Abilities	<p>Ability to undertake specialist psychosocial assessments.</p> <p>Highly developed communication skills to participate in complex and sensitive discussions.</p> <p>Ability to work autonomously within professional boundaries.</p> <p>Ability to prioritise workload and be flexible to changing demands.</p> <p>Ability to maintain accurate and confidential records.</p> <p>Understanding of the impact of life limiting illness and bereavement on children.</p> <p>Ability to contribute to service evaluation processes.</p>	<p>Knowledge of palliative care philosophy.</p> <p>Knowledge of bereavement theories and how these relate to practice.</p> <p>Experience providing consultation or training to education settings.</p>	<p>CV / Application Form Interview References</p>
Attitude, Aptitudes & Personal Characteristics	<p>Emotional resilience and professional maturity.</p> <p>Well-developed coping strategies.</p> <p>Ability to reflect on practice.</p> <p>Commitment to safeguarding.</p> <p>Ability to build trusting, positive relationships with children and families.</p> <p>Personal grief sufficiently resolved to work within a palliative care environment.</p>		<p>Interview References</p>
Other requirements (e.g., on-call/driving licence/shifts)	<p>Full driving licence and access to a vehicle.</p> <p>Willingness to undertake flexible working, including occasional evening work.</p> <p>Willingness and ability to travel to Rowans Hospice, Waterlooville for structured shadowing and service development support.</p>		

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