

# *Specialist Bereavement Staff Support Trainer Project Update*

**Funded by NHS Charities Together,  
facilitated by Hywel Dda Health Charities**

*Aim: Provide educational in-reaching sessions to clinical areas and teams where staff are managing the process of death and dying, and supporting newly bereaved people. The sessions will provide basic education to the participants, covering simple skills to provide support to patients and relatives, and give the opportunity to discuss scenarios they have been involved in, in a safe arena with clinical supervision*

**Julie Brennan  
Bereavement Support Service Manager**

# Initial set-up of the project

- Development of job description
- Advertisement
- Recruitment - job share x 2 posts
- Planning stage of pilot

## Challenges

- Recruiting staff for specialist roles

# Phase One

January – April 2022

- Pilot – introduction into key areas/sites and key stakeholders contacted to support pilot - advertisement
- Initial digital presentations and workshops rolled out – 130 spaces available (107 attendees, 23 unable to attend due to challenges outlined below)
- Feedback gathered to inform next phase of pilot

## Challenges

- COVID-19 – use of Digital platform
- Staff shortages
- Equipment issues

# Feedback from Phase One

- Overwhelming support for interactive workshops
- Sharing experiences, connecting with colleagues, reflecting on personal and professional grief within a psycho-educational arena
- Lack of education acknowledged on supporting patients, relatives and staff experiencing grief and loss
- Awareness has been raised through recommendation from previous workshop attendees

## Challenges

- COVID- 19 – Face to face attendance at workshops requested
- Longer training workshops to enable greater depth of knowledge

# Phase Two

May – September 2022

Teaching and training developed from feedback gathered from phase one.

- 36 digital workshops planned
- 14 face to face workshops planned across HDdUHB (4 sites)

## Challenges

- COVID-19
- Accommodation
- Staff shortages/ holidays

# Some feedback so far

*“Informative and very well conducted”*

*“Sensitive subject, but very beneficial”*

*“Participating made me appreciate that families deal with loss differently”*

*“Relevant and interesting. Hopefully  
can be covered next time more in  
depth, in a longer, whole day  
session”*

*“...able to listen more to patient’s needs in  
grief, especially in pregnancy loss”*

*“Changing the culture to support colleagues in Bereavement”*

*“I’m sure it will have a positive impact on the nurses  
themselves and the care they are able to give”*

*“It will enable me to have a greater awareness”*

# Thank you for listening

## Any Questions?

