** INFORMATION**

**F FOR SLOUGH**

According to a survey by Child Bereavement UK (Omnibus Survey 2016), every 22 minutes a child under the age of 18 loses a parent. This equates to around 111 children being bereaved of a parent every day in the UK.

Every year, the Thames Hospice teams see more patients with young families needing our care and support. The serious illness or death of a parent can be devastating for children and young people, and bring multiple challenges into their lives.

Thanks to a new partnership with BBC Children in Need, we can now support more children in their families with our team’s specialist skills, compassion and creativity. This partnership has been established to make a difference in three key ways:

* Encouraging children to express themselves and give voice to their feelings;
* Enabling children to improve family and social relationships and reduce isolation;
* Empowering children to learn coping strategies and know where help can be found.

All too frequently, excellent teams are stretched to the limit which restricts their provision while waiting lists grow for referred children and families. We want to work collaboratively with those agencies and specialists at work in this area for the better support of children and their families who are approaching or experiencing bereavement.

**We can offer pre-bereavement group support**

A half-termly group that referred children and their parents can access and find support when a bereavement through the death of someone close to them is expected. The group can be accessed regularly, occasionally or as a one-off session.

**We can offer bereavement group support**

A six-week course that referred children can access and find support when someone close to them has died.

Both group provisions will feature opportunities to share personal experiences through play therapy, storytelling and memory making with a relaxation toolkit and 1:1 interventions towards resilience building.

These provisions are fully funded so they are free to you and to all participants. We simply require a suitable setting in which to host the groups. A skilful, compassionate, collaborative approach is at the heart of our team’s working. Your completed referral forms will be assessed and triaged by our team.

For further information, please call Thames Hospice on 01753–842121 and ask for the Patient & Family Support Team or e-mail us at [TH.PFSTeam@nhs.net](mailto:TH.PFSTeam@nhs.net)

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**THANK YOU**