

## Working in Childhood Bereavement Courses 2021/22

### Contents

<a href="#">Information for prospective students</a> .....	1
<a href="#">Why have we developed these courses?</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Programme Outline and Programme Content</a> .....	4
<a href="#">Who will teach the programmes?</a> .....	5
<a href="#">How are the courses structured and how will students be assessed?</a> .....	5
<a href="#">Resources for students</a> .....	6
<a href="#">Entry requirements and course fees</a> .....	7
<a href="#">Making an application</a> .....	8
<a href="#">The selection process</a> .....	8
<a href="#">Calendar 2021 - 2022</a> .....	9
<a href="#">Possible sources of financial support for students</a> .....	10

## 1. Information for prospective students

Hospice UK, the national charity for the hospice care, St Christopher's, a world-leader in care of the dying and those close to them, and St Christopher's Candle Child Bereavement Service, an open access community service, have been running courses for people working in childhood bereavement since 2004. Members of the Candle Child Bereavement Service and visiting lecturers teach the courses.

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.

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 decade, 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) that 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
- 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 developed out of the pioneering work that had been done with children and families within St Christopher's, and has incorporated education, training and consultancy as core activities from the outset. Every year, Candle runs workshops at the hospice's education centre and on request in other centres for 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. Their Institute for Work Based Learning (the department that accredits the certificates on Working in Childhood Bereavement) is 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.stchristophers.org.uk); <http://www.hospiceuk.org>; [www.mdx.ac.uk](http://www.mdx.ac.uk)

### 3. Programme outline

#### **St Christopher's Candle and Hospice UK Certificate in Working in Childhood Bereavement consists of:**

- Module 1: Foundations in Working with Bereaved Children, Young People and Families (20 credits @ level 5)
- Module 2: Providing a Child Bereavement Service: Context and Framework (20 credits @ level 5)

#### **St Christopher's Candle and Hospice UK Advanced Certificate in Working in Childhood Bereavement consists of:**

- Module 3: Working with Bereaved Children, Young People and Families at Advanced Level (20 credits @ level 7)
- Module 4: Providing a Child Bereavement Service: Advanced Context and Framework (20 credits @ level 7)
- Module 5: Childhood Bereavement: Critical Evaluation of the Interaction between Theory and Practice (20 credits @ level 7)

### 4. Programme content

#### **Working with Bereaved Children, Young People and Families: Module 1 (Level 5: 20 credits); Module 3 (Level 7: 20 credits)**

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

#### **Context and Framework: Module 2 (Level 5: 20 Credits); Module 4 (Level 7: 20 Credits)**

- 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 and report writing
- A parent's perspective
- Training issues for service providers: resources; methods; reflective practice
- Children's Mental Health Service

## Critical Evaluation of the Interaction between Theory and Practice. Module 5 (Level 7: 20 Credits)

An extended essay the chosen topic of which should relate to material covered in both Modules 3 and 4 and which should make reference to the real-life experiences of children and/or of young people and their families.

### 5. Who will teach the programmes?

#### Course tutors

The programmes will be taught and tutored by members of the Candle Child Bereavement Service at St Christopher's:

- Isobel Bremner, Candle Child Bereavement Service Lead
- Jenny Baulkwill, Candle Child Bereavement Service Worker
- Judy Debenham, Candle Child Bereavement Service Worker

#### Guest lecturers

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

- David Trickey, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Anna Freud Centre
- Alison Penny, Director, Childhood Bereavement Network
- Linda McEnhill, Founder of Palliative Care for People with Learning Difficulties Network & CEO Ardgowan Hospice
- Sacha Richardson, Director of therapeutic services, Terapia. Former senior leadership positions at Winston's Wish and The Laura Centre.
- Dr Elizabeth Rolls, Honorary Research Fellow, University of Gloucestershire

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

The courses are taught on a part-time basis over 9 months. Students will be required to attend:

- two non-residential sessions (Thursday and Friday), at the beginning and end of the course, at the new CARE training building at St Christopher's, London SE26 6DZ. These will be held face to face but within a teaching space that allows appropriate distancing. If government guidance requires we will convert these days to online.
- six one-day monthly online sessions held on a Friday

Modules 1 and 3 are taught in the first term, Modules 2 and 4 are taught in the second term

Each module consists of approximately 200 hours of learning including the monthly-taught days, self-directed learning and assignments. 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:

- one 2000-word essay
- two learning reviews
- a short individual presentation of a practice technique
- a group presentation
- a 5000 extended essay (for students studying for the Advanced Certificate).

## 7. Resources for students

### Teaching venue and library support

St Christopher's has a new 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. The librarian, and/or their volunteers 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.

## 8. 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 5 (40 credits)                      £1650 plus VAT (£1980 Inc VAT)
- level 7 (60 credits)                      £2250 plus VAT (£2700 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 2021.

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.

## 9. 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

Completed application forms should arrive as soon as possible **and no later than 1 July 2021**. We would prefer if application forms are sent via email. Completed forms should be emailed to [childhoodbereavement@hospiceuk.org](mailto:childhoodbereavement@hospiceuk.org) .

If you have any queries relating to sending in an application form please contact:

Amber Morgan  
Courses Administrator  
Childhood Bereavement Courses  
Hospice UK

Tel: 020 7520 8276  
Fax: 020 7278 1021  
e-mail: [a.morgan@hospiceuk.org](mailto:a.morgan@hospiceuk.org)

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

## 10. The selection process

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

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.

## 11. Calendar 2021 - 2022

Thursday 16 and Friday 17 September 2021	First 2 days at St Christopher's : Thursday 11am – 5pm Friday 9am – 4.30pm
Friday 15 October 2021	Online 9.30am – 4.30pm
Friday 12 November 2021	Online 9.30am – 4.30pm
Friday 10 December 2021	Online 9.30am – 4.30pm
Friday 14 January 2022	Online 9.30am – 4.30pm
Friday 11 February 2022	Online 9.30am – 4.30pm
Friday 18 March 2022	Online 9.30am – 4.30pm
Thursday 28 and Friday 29 April 2022	Final 2 days at St Christopher's: Thursday 9.00am – 5pm Friday 9am – 3.30pm
Friday, 10 June 2021	Submission of 5000 word extended essay (Module 5, Level 7 only)

## 12. 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:

#### **Grants for Individuals**

([www.grantsforindividuals.org.uk](http://www.grantsforindividuals.org.uk))

#### **Turn2us**

[www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk)

#### **Funding Central**

[www.fundingcentral.org.uk](http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk)

#### **Career Development Loans**

[www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/AdultLearning/CareerDevelopmentLoans/index.htm](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/AdultLearning/CareerDevelopmentLoans/index.htm)

#### **Access to Learning Fund**

The 2010/11 customer pack, 'Student finance in 3 easy steps' can be downloaded from [Direct.gov.uk](http://Direct.gov.uk).

#### **Department for Education**

(<http://www.education.gov.uk>)

This website provides information regarding funding support for part-time students.

#### **The Skills Funding Agency:**

Responsible for funding and planning education and training for over 16 year olds in England

(<http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/>)

#### **Highlands and Islands Enterprise:**

Details of Local Enterprise Councils (LECs) for northern and western Scotland ([www.hie.co.uk](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.fundinginformation.org)