

## South West London Bereavement Services and Support:

### Gaps Workshops **report key considerations**

The South West London Bereavement Services Community Engagement initiative revealed a critical need for expanded, inclusive, and well-publicised bereavement services. The findings highlight the importance of acknowledging diverse grief experiences, addressing systematic barriers, and ensuring long-term support. As one participant powerfully stated: *"Grief doesn't just affect your heart—it affects your whole life. Support needs to reflect that."* (Participant from the workshop facilitated by Dignitate)

#### **To build a more effective bereavement care system, services should consider:**

- A. Expanding awareness:** Strengthen outreach efforts through GP surgeries, community centres, social media, and public awareness campaigns.
- B. Improving accessibility:** Reduce waiting times, increase face-to-face support, and ensure bereavement services operate beyond standard working hours.
- C. Enhancing cultural sensitivity:** Develop bereavement services that respect and incorporate diverse mourning practices.
- D. Strengthening youth and family support:** Introduce bereavement education in schools and offer structured support for young people.
- E. Providing practical and emotional guidance:** Ensure clear, easily accessible information on legal, financial, and administrative matters after bereavement.
- F. Supporting community-led bereavement groups:** Fund and expand peer support networks and bereavement-friendly community spaces.

By implementing the above recommendations, the south west London health and care system can build a bereavement services and support framework that is compassionate, inclusive, and reflective of the diverse needs of its communities.



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