



Family Bereavement Sessions and Social Events Support Volunteer

The Family Bereavement sessions - What we do

We run sessions for bereaved families, offering three different age groups which are tailored around different developmental needs for 4-7-, 8-12- and 13–18-year-olds.

These Family Bereavement sessions currently have four components:

- An assessment with an allocated support worker to provide information and assess eligibility.
- An online parent information session for parent/carers to provide guidance and support in preparation for attendance at the bereavement session and to answer any questions or concerns.
- A social activity for families to meet and engage prior to the bereavement session.
- One Saturday Family Bereavement Session bringing families together (typically from 9am-3.30pm). These sessions will mostly be delivered as a family, with an hour in the afternoon where children and parents meet separately.

The Family Bereavement Sessions currently take place in Reigate but could be run from other locations in our catchment area across Surrey, parts of West Sussex and Kent.

The Social Event will be at a convenient location for the participating families which will be agreed with them. This is usually held on a Tuesday or Wednesday after school for the 8-12 and 13-18 groups and on a Saturday for the 4–7-year-olds.

How we ask you to help with groups:

We ask that volunteers can commit to the following aspects of the family bereavement session delivery – online session, social activity and Family Bereavement Session.

During delivery, you will be required to assist the Support Workers in the delivery of the activities and to support the children, young people and parents/carers to engage. Various activities are run at the family bereavement sessions - such as making salt jars, memory boxes and other craft activities, etc.

Additionally, volunteers would be expected to serve teas and coffees, wash up and support the setting up and delivery of the activities.,

Social events- What we do

We provide different social events and activities throughout the year to help bring children and young people in a similar situation together. This helps bereaved families and those facing the death of a loved one to have an opportunity to connect as a family and create special memories.

It also allows children and young people to know that they are not alone and to meet with others who are grieving or facing the death of a loved one. Research shows that social connections and social support is important for health and well-being.

How we ask you to help with social events:

To help the Support Workers in the delivery of the events and to connect and engage with children, young people and their families in attendance.

Training – before supporting families

We will provide you with all of the information and training you need and you will join a vibrant and committed group of volunteers ensuring that children and young people across our communities will not be alone during their bereavement journey.

Jigsaw South East is committed to the wellbeing of our volunteers and we will provide you with the information and support you need to fulfil your volunteering role. You will have a named member of staff as a central point of contact, access to supervision where relevant and the opportunity to meet other Jigsaw South East volunteers on, at least, a quarterly basis.

We provide our group volunteers with some comprehensive training to prepare them for the role – but it is worth noting, volunteers are always working alongside professional Support Workers at the groups and are not expected to ‘go it alone’.

Who we need.

Jigsaw South East believes in the value of voluntary activity as an important component of the organisation in supporting children, young people and their families when facing or following the death of a loved one.

Jigsaw South East takes responsibility for ensuring that volunteers within its own organisation are appropriately involved, respected and valued for their contribution.

We are looking for enthusiastic and passionate volunteers over the age of 18 (we will be looking to recruit under 18 Young Ambassadors shortly).

We are looking for volunteers with the following essential/desirable credentials and who can commit to at least one Family Bereavement Session (and associated online and social components) and two Social Activities per year. The volunteer agreement and commitment to Jigsaw SE will be reviewed after 18 months as we know that people’s circumstances change.

Essential	Desirable, but not essential
Excellent listening skills	Ability to commit to a minimum of one Family Bereavement Session and associated elements per year and two additional social activity per year
Ability to empathise	Experience with children and young people
Experience of bereavement (personal and/or professional)	Knowledge of different religious and cultural beliefs around death and dying
Ability to work in a team participating in activities	
Use of a car (our venues are not easily accessible via public transport)	
Ability to adhere to JSE's policies and protocols for safeguarding and confidentiality	

As an engager of volunteers Jigsaw South East is committed to a policy of equal opportunities. This principle will apply to service delivery, recruitment, promotion, training, facilities, procedures and all terms and conditions.

Volunteers will be expected to adhere to Jigsaw South East's Equal Opportunities Policy, a copy of which can be found within the Jigsaw South East's Volunteer Pack.

The children's health and wellbeing are of paramount to us, therefore we are looking for very special people to help us provide the support they deserve and ask that you can meet the above criteria.

We will also require an enhanced DBS check and two references.

We look forward to hearing from you.