

SUPPORTING BEREAVED YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES **AFFECTED BY SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE**

This guidance is designed for professionals supporting bereaved young people and their families who have been affected by serious youth violence based on the ‘Overlooked and Forgotten’ report (2024)*.

Professionals include, but are not limited to; youth workers, social workers, educators, mental health practitioners, criminal justice sector professionals and community leaders.

*Scan **HERE** for full report and guidance!



Here are 7 steps you can take to better support young people and families impacted by youth-violence-related homicide.



1 **Tailor your support**

Tailor your intervention to suit the needs of the people you’re supporting. Ask people how best they would like to be supported. Be consistent, proactive, transparent and as flexible as possible. Be mindful and respectful of cultural needs.

2 **Map out the relationship network**

Help the bereaved family to map out all the people they know within their network i.e. relatives, friends, peers – so you can help signpost as many members as possible to the relevant support.

3 **Map out the professional network**

Help the family identify all the professionals in their network, such as, GPs, teachers, youth workers, support workers etc and their contact details. Doing this may help alleviate administrative burden for families and you can support them in reaching out to these professionals for support.

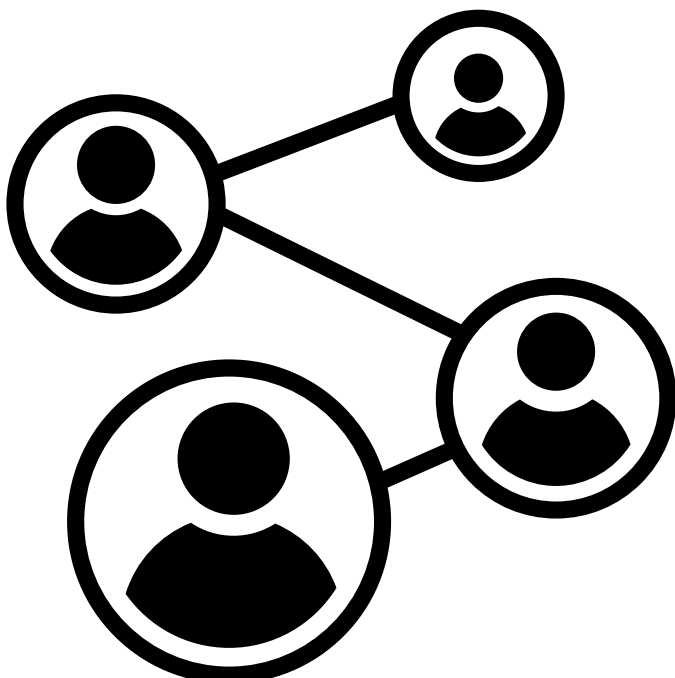
4 **Upskill**

Access specialist information on managing bereavement from organisations such as Child Bereavement UK and Support After Murder and Manslaughter (SAMM) to help improve your skills and increase your confidence when it comes to supporting bereaved individuals.



5 **Carry out a risk assessment**

With the individual or family’s consent, gather any necessary information about any risks or safety concerns that may be present. Then, alongside the family (and other professionals in the network if appropriate) create a safety plan. This will help to try and make sure everyone involved is as safe as possible.



6 **Link in with local and community-based support**

With consent, work to coordinate your intervention with key members of the local community i.e. school, health, social care, youth work etc and other professionals within the bereaved family’s network. This is to help individuals or families get the most cohesive and effective support possible.

7 **Ensure independence and neutrality**

Clarify the nature of our role in supporting people and the ways in which it is unique and separate from other organisations. Work to make sure individuals or families feel comfortable seeking and receiving help from your service or organisation. Be clear about your intentions to provide tailored, non-judgemental, trust-based support at a pace that is comfortable for those you are supporting.