



[INSERT YOUR LOGO]

For immediate release [or insert an embargo date if you prefer]

Children's Grief Awareness Week

[Insert name of your organisation] is showing its support for Children's Grief Awareness Week 2018 (15 to 21 November) by raising awareness of bereaved children's needs. The week kicks off on international Children's Grief Awareness Day on 15 November and continues with a week of activities across the UK. [We'll be...insert details of any activities, events etc you are running linked to the week].

This year, the theme is #RememberWhen – encouraging families to share memories together of the person who has died. Whether it's a photo, a place, a meal, a joke or a story, we're giving children and young people a chance to talk about their important person, and to find out more about them from friends and family.

Child bereavement charity Grief Encounter will be launching this year's events on 15 November with its 'Forever Night' in London, an opportunity for children who have been bereaved to remember their loved one who has died and come together for communal craft and play activities.

1 in 29 school age children in the UK have been bereaved of a parent or sibling – that's around one in every classroom. The Childhood Bereavement Network estimates that around 24,000 die each year leaving dependent children. We estimate that 24,000 parents die each year leaving dependent children.

Children's Grief Awareness Week was established in 2015 by Grief Encounter, in partnership with the Childhood Bereavement Network, to raise awareness of bereaved children and young people as a vulnerable group in UK society. The Week is a chance to show how the support of family, friends, schools and communities, and the provision of free, professional support can make the world of difference to their future.

After the death of someone close, children need support in their grief, to be nurtured and to feel a sense of continuity, helping them weave together the threads of their past and their future. Sharing memories of the person who has died can help with this.

Not all children have memories of the person – they might have been very young when they died, but curious about them and the role they played in the family. Some children have painful or difficult memories and need support in managing these.

[Insert details of the work your service does in supporting children with their memories eg 'Here at ** service, one of the ways we help children remember the person is to...']

[With permission, you could insert a quote from a young person or parent about the benefits of remembering the person]

Parents and carers shouldn't have to cope alone. Family, friends, colleagues, schools and the government all have a part to play in supporting them to support grieving children. Specialist services like [insert name of your service] should be available for all grieving children and their families that need them – wherever they live and however they have been bereaved – helping them realise that they are not alone.

Everyone can get involved in Children's Grief Awareness Week by sharing a memory of someone important to them who has died. Use #RememberWhen and #ChildrensGriefAwarenessweek to join the community supporting grieving children and their families.

-ENDS-

[Insert contact details for your service including an out of hours number for the media to call, if appropriate]

Notes to editors

1. [INSERT BASIC DETAILS ABOUT YOUR SERVICE]
2. In the UK, the Childhood Bereavement Network www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk is teaming up with Grief Encounter www.griefencounter.org.uk and organisations across the country to coordinate activity throughout Children's Grief Awareness Week (15-21 November 2018)
3. Please use #RememberWhen and #Childrensgriefawarenessweek in social media
4. Visit <http://www.childrensgriefawarenessweek.com/> and <http://www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk/campaigns/childrens-grief-awareness-week.aspx> for more information