

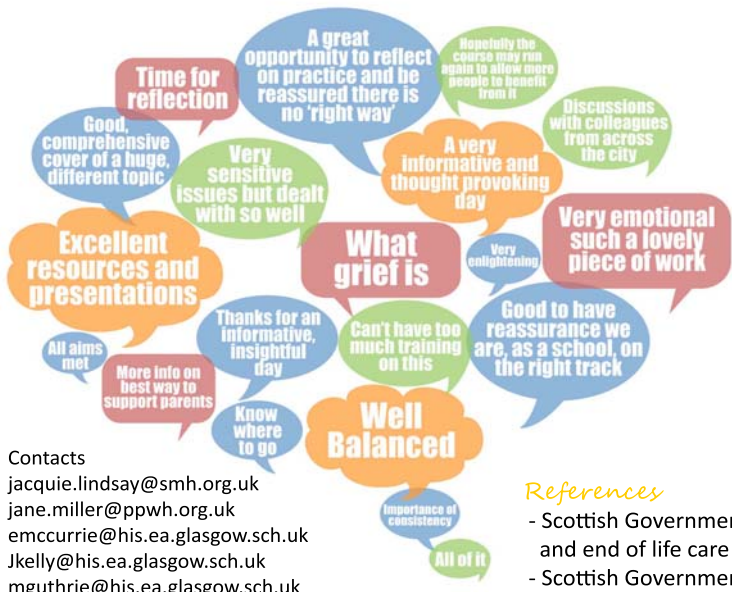
# WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH TO LOSS, GRIEF AND BEREAVEMENT

**Objectives** – The “Whole School Approach to Supporting Bereavement and Loss” toolkit was developed for education staff to increase and deepen knowledge and understanding of bereavement, loss and change.

**Methods** – A scoping exercise was carried out in 2011 by the Child and Young People Mental Health Short Life Working Group. The purpose of the exercise was to establish the range of services and activities available to support child and youth mental health throughout Greater Glasgow and Clyde. The results detailed current provision in educational establishments across Glasgow including education and training needs specific to loss, grief and bereavement. The Health Improvement Seniors based within Glasgow Schools liaised with the Glasgow City Council Education Department and Glasgow Hospices to establish a working group to develop guidance documentation for staff alongside CPD Study Events.

**Results** – “The Whole School Approach to Supporting Bereavement and Loss” toolkit sets out the vision for Glasgow and is available across all educational establishments to support staff dealing with loss, grief and bereavement. Two study days were facilitated each with 30 delegates from a range of educational environments including early years, primary, secondary and special needs schools. The evaluations were positive and future study days are in planning with the aim of being facilitated twice per year for the foreseeable future. The online resource (toolkit) created by the Bereavement and Loss Working Group is complete and was launched in Summer 2013. Staff have benefited from training opportunities delivered by Educational Psychologists, Hospice Staff including Psychosocial Teams and Educationalists and Health Improvement Seniors. Those who have attended the CPD Study Events have provided feedback confirming the event as beneficial in equipping them with knowledge and confidence when supporting children, young people and staff during a period of change, transition, loss and bereavement. The 'toolkit' complements the existing Managing Critical Incident circular for Glasgow Educational establishments.

**Evaluations** – What Participants Thought, Felt, Valued and Learned



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## WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH



**Conclusion** – The development of the 'toolkit' is a good practice example of collaborative interagency partnership which has resulted in the development of a uniformed approach to the training and support of education staff in Glasgow. Training has evaluated positively, the steering group continue to meet to review emerging evidence base, guidance and education event content following participant evaluation. The 'toolkit' will be reviewed in 2014 to evaluate information uptake and effectiveness in practice.



### References

- Scottish Government (2008) Living and Dying Well - a national action plan for palliative and end of life care in Scotland, Edinburgh
- Scottish Government (2010) Shaping Bereavement Care - a framework for action, Edin-