

Unexpected Death of a Child

What is an unexpected death?

- An unexpected death is defined as the death of an infant or child (less than 18 years old)
- The death was not anticipated as a significant possibility

How will those affected by a sudden death receive bereavement support?

All bereavement enquiries and referrals will be co-ordinated through the LivingGrief service at St Elizabeth Hospice.

Provision

The LivingGrief team will triage the referrals and contact the referrer/client should any further information be required. The service offered could be:

Service being delivered

- Bereavement support (1:1 support - via telephone, online or face to face)
- Family work
- Information provision

All bereavement and family support will be via a third party counsellor. This will not be an employee of St Elizabeth Hospice but will be a counsellor that has been sourced who hold the right skills.

Reasons for referrals

Bereavement support for family members.

Inclusion criteria

- Family members linked to an unexpected death in an infant or child (less than 18 years)
- The child who died unexpectedly was a resident in East Suffolk and family members also reside in East Suffolk
- The death occurred within the last 12 months

Exclusion

- If another health provider is better placed to manage the support e.g. mental health services
- Client is unable to engage in therapy
- The death occurred more than 12 month ago
- If not consented

How to make a referral

- To make a referral please complete our online form [Bereavement support referral form - St Elizabeth Hospice](#)
- For all other enquiries please call our LivingGrief bereavement and emotional wellbeing enquiry line on 0300 303 5196. Monday to Friday 9am-4pm

Information

Further information can be found on our website [LivingGrief - bereavement support - St Elizabeth Hospice](#)