

Summer Member's Meeting 2019 Minutes

Date	19 th June 2019	Time	11 am – 1 pm	Venue	CALM Offices Elizabeth House, 39 York Road, London, SE1 7NQ
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Item	Description	Lead(s)	Papers	Time (mins)
1	Welcome and update NHS, Central Hub, Hosting	Hamish	Presentation	10 mins
2	Talk: James Parker, Chief Coroner's Office		Talk	20 mins
3	Updates for the Central Hub	Sarah/Amanda	Presentation	15 mins
4	Direction of the SASP with time for discussion Hosting Developing partnerships	Sarah	Verbal	25 mins
Break				
5	Talk: Paul Barber, Suicide Postvention Lead, Greater Manchester		Talk	20 mins
6	Support Guidelines	Anne	Guidelines, Verbal	15 mins
7	Members' Updates	Sarah	Verbal	15 mins
8	AOB	Sarah	Verbal	5 mins

A list of the attendees can be found at the end of the minutes.

1. Welcome and Update

Hamish welcomed the group and each member introduced themselves. Hamish updated the members on the activities of the SASP since our last meeting, including:

- SASP were awarded £40,000 for the development of the Central Hub, to support NHSE's Long Term Plan for Suicide Bereavement Support in every area of the country.
- The SASP applied for a further grant – issued by the NHS - to maintain and run the Central Hub

- We invited select organisations to submit Expressions of Interest for hosting The SASP, the responses will be discussed in the Leadership Team Meeting. During this meeting, we will ask for Members' thoughts on the process, and what they would like us to consider in selecting a host.
- Real Time Surveillance (RTS) is key to a successful service. It is currently present in around 10/15 areas. As we move forward, the SASP will support areas to implement RTS, and work with Public Health England (PHE) to implement national coordination of locally collected, anonymous, data.

2. Talk: James Parker, Chief Coroner's Office

We welcomed James Parker from the Chief Coroner's Office, to speak on how the Coroners Office and judiciary service can better support those going through the inquest process, following the suspected suicide of a loved one.

James discussed the roles of the Chief Coroner such as making judicial decisions on operational matters.

He outlined some of the key work being done around suicide bereavement, including:

- The recent change to how suicide verdicts are reached at inquest, known as the Maughan judgement, in which a verdict of suicide is decided on the civil standard of proof; i.e. the "standard of probabilities". The ruling was confirmed by the Court of Appeals.
- Working with the Ministry Of Justice to revised the "Guide to Coroner Services". The SASP has worked with the Chief Coroner's Office and the MoJ on this, reviewing the language and tone of the document.
- The development of the Model Coroner Area, a document which explains what the chief coroner might expect in court, and how support might be provided. James welcomed thoughts from members of the SASP.
- The work of the Chief Coroners to ensure post-mortem examinations cause the family of the deceased as little stress as possible.
- James outlined the development of mandatory training for Coroners and Coroners Officers. The training is a 2 day induction course for new coroners, and after qualifying they attend a 2 day training course once every year.
- The development of suicide bereavement training in 2021, which will address issues such as how officers should support individuals in person and over phone and email.

James welcomed any questions from the members, which we have detailed below :

Q: How are coroners responding to the new training?

A: They are responding well and feel more included in judiciary system. The focus of training changed to more interaction instead of passive listening of information.

Q: Are there any targets to reduce inquest time?

A: Regulations suggest coroners should aim to complete an inquest in 6 months but this varies for each case.

Q: Is there complaints procedure in place?

A: The Judicial Conduct Investigations Office (JCIO) deals with complaints and people can also write to the coroner or local authority.

Future directions involve exploring how SASP can better inform people about what happens during and inquest and with a coroner such as what to expect.

3. Updates for the Central Hub

Sarah updated the members on the development of The Central Hub (CH). She outlined the audience of the CH - commissioners, service providers and first responders – and the main elements of the Central Hub website, which is being developed in phases. The elements of the Central Hub are;

- A website
- Resource hub and resource development
- Partnership work to improve support along the bereavement pathway
- Evaluation tools
- Bespoke information and education days
- Support for STPs and those implementing new services, RTS, and increasing their existing capacity.

As much as possible will be available freely, and free of charge. Some services, such as education days, may be charged at cost price.

The CH's "front door" will be a website, developed to support the NHSE Long Term Plan for implementation of services across the country. The website will provide information and resources, including;

- A compelling case for support
- Guides to developing new services and developing funding proposals
- A hub of resources
- Information on Real Time Surveillance, Inquests, and more
- "Short on Time" question section
- Case Studies of good practice
- Information on the SASP, members, and partners
- Contact to other Central Hub services

The current SASP website will have new homepage, with options to access the central hub or suicide bereavement support.

The website has 3 key purposes, which are outlined below:

1. Enabling areas to understand how to develop a service. The website will take the user on a journey through what happens following a death by possible suicide, how to develop proactive bereavement support, what is required, and how to meet minimum standards, based on the PHE suite of resources for developing and evaluating bereavement support.
2. Enabling those who may be part of the NHSE Long Term Plan to develop a funding proposal. The process takes individuals through what is required, and considerations they may wish to answer, with an opportunity to complete a draft proposal which they can download at the end.
3. Resources: a library where resources will be searchable by key word. SASP is working to develop a package of information, upskilling, education.

SASP is supporting the 8 pilot sites to develop services as part of the LTP which include: Devon, Derby, Nottingham, North Central London, South West London, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire (BOB), West Yorkshire and Harrogate (and Durham ICS).

Sarah welcomed questions from the group:

Q: Is SASP recruiting for roles within the Central Hub?

A: SASP is waiting for the funding to recruit a Central Hub Implementation Manager by the end of 2019.

[Members can email Sarah if they have any specific questions.](#)

4. [Direction of SASP with time for discussions](#)

Hosting

SASP put together an open invitation for expression of interest in hosting the SASP

The criteria included how comprehensive the expression of interest was, Vision alignment, how much interest is expressed in hosting, how SASP function within our new host on day to day basis, confidence regarding the future and sustainability of SASP within the host, the organisational structure and the financial implications.

Members discussed whether the criteria was sufficient, and suggested it would be important to consider:

- The location of host and whether this is suitable for SASP
- Consider a link between suicide prevention and postvention organisations.
- Ensure the host organisation's vision of good practice in suicide bereavement is the same as SASP's.
- Ensure SASP's autonomy is maintained within a bigger organisation.

Members expressed their confidence in the Leadership Team selecting an appropriate host, and were pleased with the process. It was expressed that they appreciated being consulted.

5. Talk: Paul Barber, Suicide Postvention Lead, Greater Manchester

The Greater Manchester Suicide Bereavement Information Service launched on 1st April, supporting anyone bereaved or affected by suicide in any of the 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester. This service is particularly important as Manchester is a unitary authority, and therefore will not receive funding from the NHS under the Long Term Plan.

Currently, the service is accessed through a self-referral process, with their referrals coming from members of the public, prevention and postvention services, and individuals setting up bereavement support groups.

The service is a primary access point for bereaved individuals, and they work to identify existing services, signpost to relevant support in each area and raise awareness across the 10 boroughs.

The service is mainly accessed through a website – www.shininglightonsuicide.org.uk, which provides information about suicide prevention and postvention.

In the future the service would like to continue to connect with communities in Greater Manchester, update their list of suicide bereavement services and support the enhancement of service provision in the 10 boroughs.

Paul was open to questions from the members, which are detailed below:

Q: The cost of the service

A: £348,000 across 2 years and 9 months

Q: To what extent are there connections with local NHS organisations

A: There are none yet as the service is fairly new.

Items 6 and 7 on the agenda were switched around.

6. Members' updates

Holly began by thanking members for their ongoing support of SASP and all their hard work. As of May 2019, SASP has 49 members and 19 supporters.

Holly has worked hard to improve processes for members, including a new membership agreement form to formalise membership, and an updated form for adding and updating services' details on the bereavement services on our website map.

Holly then opened the floor for Members' Updates:

- Samaritans and University of Exeter are creating a report of evaluation of suicide prevention plans which will be published soon.
- The Bereavement Evaluation Forum and ABSCO are running a conference on assessment and evaluation in bereavement services: Proving and Improving. 23 July in Leeds - booking details here <http://www.absco.org.uk/event-3257604>
- Children's Grief Awareness Week will run 15-21 November - theme and materials will be announced shortly by the NBA.
- Winston Churchill Memorial Trust (WCMT) applications are now open and suicide prevention is one of the categories.

Members who have not yet signed the agreement form should complete it as soon as possible and email it to Holly.

Support Guidelines

The guidelines for delivering bereavement support groups are a collaboration between SASP and the National Bereavement Alliance.

The guidance is generic for running an adult support group (18 years old or older) either peer facilitated or ran by professionals.

Content includes sections such as Different types of groups and covers legal issues such as GDPR. The guidelines are developed in accordance to the Bereavement Care Services (BSA).

The next steps include:

- Release the final guidelines at the beginning of July.
- Publish the guidelines on the Central Hub resources library.
- Circulate the guidelines to CCG's, Public Health departments, regional leads and members to circulate within their own networks.
- Contact every organisation we work with and ask them to discuss the guidelines at next trustee meeting and assess whether their services are compliant with guidelines.

Any Other Business

There was no other business and so the meeting was brought to a conclusion and closed.

List of attendees

Adele Owen- Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership

Alima Mannan- SASP

Alison Jordan- Pete's Dragons

Alison Penny- National Bereavement Alliance

Andrew McBarnett- DrugFAM

Andy Langford- Cruse Bereavement Care

Anne Embury- Outlook South West

Beverly Radcliffe- Coroners Court Support Service

Carolyn Brice- The Compassionate Friends
Elizabeth Burton-Phillips- DrugFAM
Evan Grant- The Cameron Memorial Grant
Hamish Elvidge- (SASP Chair) The Matthew Elvidge Trust
Holly Tolson- SASP
Jacqui Morrissey- Samaritans
James Parker- (guest speaker) Chief Coroner's Office
Khadijah Noel- Maytree
Lottie- Hectors House
Martin Patrick- Storm Skills
Matthew Steans- Stigma Statistics
Paul Barber- (guest speaker) Suicide Postvention Lead, Greater Manchester
Penny Fosten- National Suicide Prevention Alliance
Richard Brown- AMPARO
Robert- Hector's House
Saira Waheed- SASP (minute taker)
Sarah Bates- SASP
Sarah Skelton- Papyrus
Steve Mallen- Bereaved parent and MindED Trust