

Minutes of SASP Members Meeting

Tuesday September 27th 2016



Room G306a, Jean Macfarlane Building, Manchester University

Action log

Action	By	Lead/Comments
Feedback for website	Friday 7 th October	ALL http://staging.supportaftersuicide.org.uk/
Send logo to Sarah	Friday 7 th October	ALL
Send select committee response to Sarah	ASAP	All eleven members who submitted evidence to the select committee
Contact David to help with memorial service	ASAP	All if you can help.

1. Welcome and minutes of the previous meeting

Hamish welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves. Hamish welcomed our guest speaker, Steven Mallen, and gave the apologies of Paul Growney, who was unable to attend as a second guest speaker.

2. Vision and Update Plans

It was noted that eleven of the members in attendance had submitted evidence to the Select Committee by the September 9th deadline (listed in Appendix 3.4).

It was agreed that Sarah would ask all organisations that submitted evidence to send this to her so that we can develop a one/two page briefing note that reflects the overall, high level policy position of the Partnership. This would then be shared with Members and used if members are called to appear before the Select Committee to give verbal evidence.

Action: Members who submitted a response to the select Committee Responses (list of members in appendix 3.4), should send their evidence to Sarah Bates.

3. Website Update

Sarah summarised the progress of the website and the new features, including the new map tool to find local support, new aesthetics, and the functions of the tabs/buttons. The website will also feature e-reader versions of the resources, and PDFs to download. The website is on track to be launched at the end of October, 2016. Sarah outlined the user journey as:

1. Visitor feels they are in the right place and welcome.
2. Visitor engages with the call to action and likes the information offered
3. Visitor sense a community feeling, feels they are not alone.
4. Visitor takes something away – information, a resource, a contact for further support etc.
5. Visitor has a desire to return.

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Some members provided feedback, which was mainly aesthetic/operational. Steve Mallen suggested including a section for families dealing with the media in the aftermath of a suicide. It was suggested that members could promote upcoming events on the SASP website.

Action: all. Please visit skeleton website and give feedback by Friday 7th October 2016.

Website address: <http://staging.supportaftersuicide.org.uk/>

4. Survey Update

Sharon updated the members on the current situation. The survey questions are complete, including additional questions about sexuality, race and ethnicity. The survey is the first of its kind and will look at many aspects of the impact of suicide on those who are bereaved.

It was noted that we had £10,000 of funding from The Monument Trust. It was noted that the costs of the survey are likely to be £65,000. Currently, Sarah (on behalf of SASP) has applied for funding from the Esmee Fairburn Foundation (declined) and the Nuffield Foundation (awaiting outcome). She is also exploring further funding options.

Members were informed that the survey will continue, in the following steps:

- I. A pre-pilot of up to 40 participants recruited through Outlook SouthWest (Anne), IfUCareShare (Shirley), Amparo (Richard), and Suicide Bereavement UK (Sharon). This will be completed before the Christmas period in 2016.
- II. A pilot of 200 participants, starting early in 2017.
- III. Conduct a full review in spring 2017
- IV. Launch the full study (of perhaps 2,000 participants), to be launched in the summer of 2017.

It was noted that the Department of Health runs the National Survey of Bereaved People (VOICES) where the research team could draw helpful information on running sensitive surveys.

It was noted that the survey will carry the logo of all members, who send their logo to Sarah.

Action: All to send organization logo to Sarah (sarah@supportaftersuicide.org.uk)

5. Help is at Hand

Fergus agreed to lead on thinking about the future of the publication. It was noted that the current restraints on supplying hard copies are financial, "stock-pilling" by some organisations and practicalities of dissemination to bereaved families. It was noted the intention of HIAH is to give people who are bereaved by suicide a hardcopy resource that they can access when they are ready. Fergus impressed the importance of HIAH as part of a package of post-vention support.

It was noted that the SASP could provide HIAH, with the following strategy:

- Distribute the current stock (~16,000 copies) to stock a minimum level of HIAH
- Invest in making it available online in a variety of formats (e-readers, PDF downloads, audio).
- Consider investing in the development of an app that can be used on e-readers.
- Distribute z-cards to frontline and care services, funeral directors, coroners etc.

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- Stock will still be ordered through Prolog and PHE.

It was suggested members could easily upload an e-reader version of HIAH to their websites, using ISSUU.

It was noted that the Louise Tebboth Foundation will launch on 19th October. The Foundation aims to support the mental wellbeing of medical practitioners and doctors' families bereaved by suicide.

6. Membership Development

Members were asked to think about/mark down thoughts on the following:

- a) What do you like about being a member of the SASP?
- b) What could the SASP improve for members?
- c) How would you like to see the SASP grow/develop?
- d) Your ideas for expansion of the SASP and the role of members in the future.

Please see Appendix 6 for the responses

7. Members' Updates (swapped from Agenda item 8)

Winston's Wish – They will be on Channel 4's Cutting Edge – a documentary about their work supporting children who have been bereaved, especially through traumatic bereavement.

National Bereavement Alliance – They are conducting a survey on bereavement, looking at the impact of a bereavement on groups of children. They are involved in Children's Grief Awareness on 17th November. This will be promoted on the Child Bereavement Network website.

The Compassionate Friends – They recently ran their first retreat for bereaved parents, which was a great success. Margaret Brearly (Trustee) attended TCF's annual conference in Germany, where she was inspired with the German system of bereavement support, especially peer support from volunteers who have been bereaved themselves and now help others.

Outlook South West – they held their annual memorial service in Truro Cathedral on 11th September 2016. It was a great success, with many attending and finding it a positive, healing experience.

Haringey Mind – they are looking for help organizing the memorial service at Saint Martins-in-the-Fields Church (London) in February.

Action: Contact David from Haringey Mind if you are able to help with their service in February.

8. Guest speaker - Anne Embury

Anne Embury spoke about a national service, IAP accreditation and the necessity for consistent quality of services.

There was a discussion about the possibility of developing a code of practice for suicide bereavement support. To be discussed at a future meeting.

Action: Sarah to diarise for future meeting

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9. Guest speaker - Steve Mallen

Steve spoke about his personal and family experiences, especially dealing with the media and highlighting the lack of formal support his family received before and after the suicide of their son. There was a discussion about the role of legal support in providing help to families bereaved by suicide and this will be discussed at a future meeting.

Action: Sarah to diarise for a future meeting

10. AOB

There was no other business and so Hamish thanked the members for coming, Sarah for organizing the meeting and Leadership Team meeting and closed the meeting.

Attendees

Anne Embury (Outlook South West)
Alison Hill (Pete's Dragons)
Sarah Bates (SASP)
Sharon McDonnell (Suicide Bereavement UK)
Shirley Smith (If U Care Share Foundation)
Alison Penny (Child Bereavement Network)
Liz Koole (Winston's Wish)
Sharon Blight (East Sussex Community)
Shirley Potts (Child Bereavement UK)
Fergus Crow (Wintson's wish)
Jane Powell (CALM)
Margaret Brearly (The Compassionate Friends)
Ann Culley (SOBs)
Hamish Elvidge (Matthew Elvidge Trust/Chair of the SASP)

Guests

Martin Lawlor (Sharon McDonnell)
Steve Mallen (MindEd)

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Appendix 6. Responses from the membership activity

a) What do you like about being a member of the SASP?

The sense of goodwill and working together/forming a network/feeling connected/making progress and tangible achievements
That our different voices are consolidated into shared visions
Having a community of organisations is encouraging
The experience/variety of the membership
Sharing information/knowledge/learning/experiences
The SASP is well organized and driven, with good momentum
That we met in Manchester (although aware this doesn't suit everyone)
Being part of the SASP gives small organisations membership to a 'bigger' partnership

b) What could the SASP improve for members?

More time given to the members' updates and talks from organisations
A space/forum for members on the website
Proactively encouraging/recruiting new members to join
Need to keep alert to keeping everyone on board, especially the 'specialist' services (eg. Children)
Make it critically important for members to attend the members' meetings
Make the scope and implications of membership clear
Expand membership to make a UK wide network
Sharing resources more
Agenda and papers could be sent more in advance of the meeting

c) How would you like to see the SASP grow/develop?

A wider representation of frontline services at meetings, coroners, commissioners, funders, police, mental health services etc.
More shared working/collaboration between members
Members could invite potential new members in their fields, to widen the membership.

d) Your ideas for expansion of the SASP and the role of members in the future.

National Bereavement Alliance and the SASP could collaborate more
Involve patrons, well-known/influential people who have been bereaved by suicide
Providing legal advice/signposting to pro bono services to those who are going through inquests and dealing with legal aspects of suicide bereavement
Members could promote the SASP on their websites for visitors bereaved by suicide
Use learnings from other countries (such as Australia and Germany) to improve UK practice