



THE YO-YO PROJECT REFERRAL CRITERIA

The Yo-Yo Project is a Community Childhood bereavement project for the Mid-Essex area. It is based within Farleigh Hospice and has received funding through BBC Children in Need. The development of this project has been informed by the views and ideas of a group of bereaved children and young people.

The following document is the criteria to which the project will work:

1. Children and young people aged between **4 – 18 years** will be offered a service. The age at time of referral will determine whether a service can be provided.
2. Children and young people must **reside in the Mid-Essex area** (Chelmsford, Braintree and Maldon districts) to receive a service.
3. Referrals will be accepted where a child or young person has been bereaved of an individual where a **significant attachment existed** (e.g. parent, grandparent, sibling, friend or carer) **and where the bereavement is having a substantial impact upon that individuals' wellbeing.**
4. Bereavement has to be identified as the **primary presenting issue** for the child or young person. Any type of bereavement can be referred to the

project, although each case will be subject to an assessment of need. There may be some cases where the project worker assesses that another agency/service is more appropriate and hence needs to re-direct the referral.

Pre-Bereavement

5. The Yo-Yo Project will see children/young people for pre-bereavement intervention if someone significant in their life has **a life limiting progressive illness**. For the purposes of the Yo-Yo Project we are defining serious progressive life limiting illness in line with Farleigh hospice referral criteria.

Referrals

6. Referrals can be made by family members, professionals or the child/young person (see section 8 below).
7. Children and young people **MUST** be aware of the referral to the project and be in agreement with initial contact being made.
8. Referrals should be made with the consent of the primary carer of the child. Some referrals will be accepted where young people have expressly requested that the primary carer is not informed, having regard to their age, development and understanding.
9. In most cases it is beneficial for a period of at least 6 weeks after the death to have elapsed prior to referral to the project. Assessment and

support/counselling will generally not be offered to children and young people before this time.

10. All children/young people will be assessed as to their needs and appropriateness for the service. The project will aim to offer a full assessment within 28 days of receipt of the referral (except if point 9 applies).

11. The services that are provided by the project include:

Telephone support

- Advice and support for professionals, family members, children and young people.
- On-going or one-off occasion.
- Will not necessarily lead to a referral and work with a child/family, e.g. one off telephone advice/support.

Family work

- The needs of the child or young person will initially be assessed to determine the most appropriate support for them. Where appropriate this will be part of a family assessment which can often act as a positive intervention for families.
- On-going family work can be provided where necessary.
- Adults may be offered support by Farleigh Hospice adult bereavement service (Circle adult bereavement support).

Individual Counselling/Play Therapy

- 4-6 sessions, for up to 1 hour will be provided. More sessions can be agreed where assessed as appropriate.
- The Yo-Yo Project worker will agree the most suitable venue for the work to be undertaken e.g. Farleigh Hospice, School etc.
- Contact with other agencies, family members etc. will occur with the consent of the child/young person.
- Future support (extended warranty) will be provided as required once individual work has ended.

Group work

- Group work for children/young people will be offered only where available and appropriate for the child/young person's needs.
- Adult support groups may also be available and run separately or in conjunction with children/young people groups.

12. Appointments will be offered as flexibly as possible, with individual sessions held either at Farleigh Hospice or at an alternative suitable venue e.g. school.

13. A waiting list may be operated by the project if demand exceeds resources. Each child on the list will be reviewed regularly and offered work as soon as possible. The project will notify the family/referrer if they are on the waiting list. A RAGing system (Red, Amber, Green) is used to help the service define the need and priority of each child/young person on the list.

14. Farleigh Hospice will keep records of work undertaken (including communication with parent/carer(s) and external services) for all referrals. Records will be retained in line with Farleigh Hospice protocol, policy and GDPR regulations.

15. The project will regularly review and evaluate its work and amend and develop services and the referral criteria as appropriate.

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