

# Bereaved NI - A new innovative website for Northern Ireland



## Background:

The Northern Ireland Department of Health developed and finalised the report “COVID-19 Guidance: Bereavement Advice and Support” in 2021.

A key recommendation was the Health and Social Care Bereavement Network should be expanded to become the Northern Ireland Bereavement Network (NIBN), with responsibility for developing and leading the strategic bereavement plan for the next 10 years.

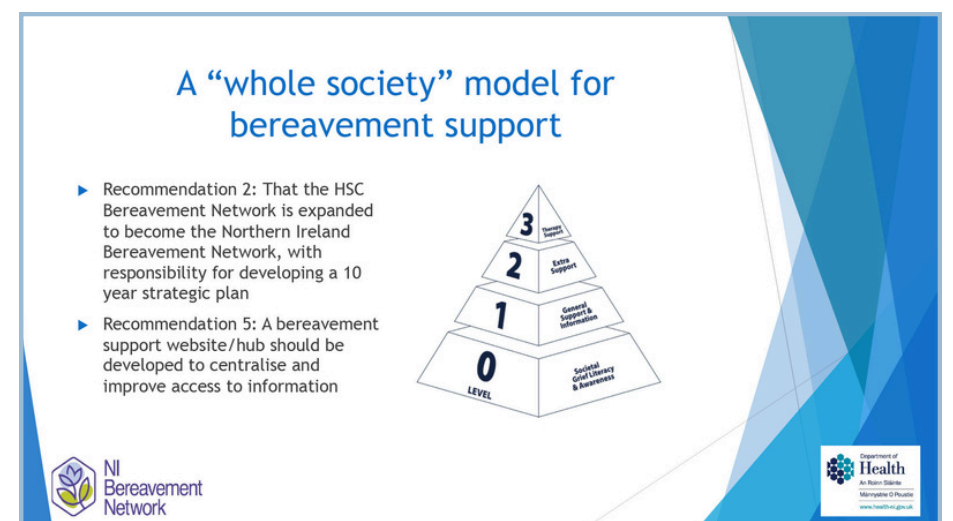
One of four NIBN work streams was to develop a new website for the public and healthcare professionals to provide information and compassionate support required throughout the bereavement journey.

**Rationale:** The development of a website for NI with easily accessible bereavement support information for every bereavement journey with ‘Living, Dying Grieving’ as a conceptual framework. The website content seeks to reflect Northern Ireland’s culture and population needs, specifically the higher levels of poor mental health and suicide rates<sup>1</sup>

## Design:

The design of this website encompassed a ‘whole society’ model for bereavement support, reflecting the evidence-based public health model of needs-based bereavement care.<sup>2</sup>

The design and ongoing development is cross sectoral, co-produced and was refined through public and government engagement via a World Café event and Citizen Space feedback platform.



The website is fully compliant with international accessibility standards.<sup>3</sup>

**Results:** Google Analytics and an onsite feedback facility provide the editorial group with data on current usage of ‘Bereaved NI’ which informs ongoing development of the website.

**Conclusion:** Bereaved NI website was successfully launched on the 11 March 2024.<sup>4</sup>

BBC News report: Bereavement Support through grieving process can be a ‘lifeline’.<sup>5</sup>

## References

- 1 Births, deaths, and marriages (2023) Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. Available at: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/births-deaths-and-marriages>
- 2 National Framework for the delivery of bereavement care [HTML] (2021) GOV.WALES. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/national-framework-delivery-bereavement-care-html>
- 3 (WAI), W.W.A.I. (2023) WCAG 2 Overview, Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI). Edited by A. Kirkpatrick et al. Available at: <https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/>
- 4 Northern Ireland bereavement support website launched (2024) Health. Available at: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/news/northern-ireland-bereavement-support-website-launched>
- 5 Wood, J. (2024) Bereavement: Support through grieving process can be a ‘lifeline’, BBC News. Available at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-68581962>