

Update on: **Wigan Schools Project**
 Update for: **Wigan Council**
22/02/2016

The Project

The project was to mail our resources to all the schools in Wigan. We sent publications that were suitable for the age ranges of children at Primary and Secondary schools. Books included information for adults supporting bereaved children as well as stories and activity books for bereaved children. There were books about helping children before bereavement where there is a terminal illness in the family. There were also books about supporting children after bereavement from all causes of death including specialist publications about suicide, murder and bereavement in military families.



The Beneficiaries

We sent our child bereavement resource packs to all 131 schools across the borough. On average one child in every 25 is bereaved, so about one in every class. Schools and teachers in Wigan now have access to a full suite of resources about childhood bereavement – they can use the information to support children in their own classes and when more in-depth help is needed they have our contact details. Teachers and parents can contact the Winston's Wish Helpline or 'drop-in' at one of our weekly sessions every Wednesday 3.30-5.30pm at Sunshine House, Wigan.

The Budget

We used the grant of £1,718.05 from Wigan Council's Deal for Communities Investment Fund to pay for the printing, packing and posting of the books. We used volunteers to help us complete the project and we topped up the funding required with income from our community fundraising in the region. It took longer than anticipated to pack and post the books, so we learnt that in future projects like this we need to allow for more volunteer time.

The Impact

'The delivery of the books makes sure that our support is accessible to everybody and helps the child or young person feel even more supported on their return to school and their routine.'

We know that we've raised awareness in Wigan, which means more teachers and parents will know about the support Winston's Wish can offer.

Children spend most of their time in school, so it's very important that they feel comfortable and that teachers are aware of how they can deal with these tragic situations in a sensitive yet effective way, helping the child and their family through their loss.' - Rebekah Lawson, Family Services Team Leader



We have already received enquiries from schools who needed more advice and help for bereaved children they were supporting. This shows us that the mailing has raised awareness of our services in Wigan which in turn means more bereaved children in the region will get the support they need to start rebuilding their lives.

Some schools contacted us because they wanted to fundraise for our services as a way of 'giving back.' As well as providing much needed income this generates yet more awareness of our charity, helping to make sure that bereaved families do not miss out on the vital support we can offer.

Due to the success of the project we have already completed a similar project in nearby Bolton. We have secured funding to complete another two projects like this in Worcestershire and in East Sussex where we launched new local services last year.

Thank you for supporting Winston's Wish and enabling us to reach out to all the schools in Wigan. Together we are helping bereaved children, and those who are supporting them, to find a way forward and look to a brighter future. Thank you.



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