The Butterfly Community
Meeting the needs of Health Visitors who are supporting families through child bereavement
A building community capacity project by Kathryn Norris RNLD, HV
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Introduction
Although overall rates of child death have fallen in this country over recent years (OPNS 2014), child death remains a stressful, emotional and challenging time for all involved (Brown 2007). The focus of care is on the family, however it is widely noted that professionals need support too (Brown 2007).

Background
Earlier this year, the team in which I trained to be a Health Visitor (HV), were sadly experiencing high rates of child deaths. Several HV’s identified a lack of knowledge, experience or confidence in supporting families through such difficult times. Having had a number of years experience of working in a children’s hospice, I was able to offer the HV’s support, guidance and share resources. It was then identified through team meetings and discussion that this support was needed for many other HV’s in the local trust. I then used this feedback as a focus for a Building Community Capacity Project which I completed whilst at university. The project proposal has since been submitted to the trust as a BCC Intervention and has now been approved for implementation.

What is the Aim and Purpose of the project
The poster presents the facilitation of an ELECTRONIC RESOURCE SUPPORT TOOL which can be used by a number of teams in the trust via the shared drive. It allows Health Visitors (HV) to share resources, experience and reflect on practice in order to enable them to feel more confident in supporting families who have experienced child bereavement. The overall aim is to empower staff to support families.

How the project has evolved so far
The project so far, has followed the first 4 phases of the Building Community Capacity programme, Appreciative Inquiry was used along with Bradshaw’s Taxonomy of Need (1972) (Robinson and Elkan 1996) to ascertain the community’s (the health visitors) need. The resource tool has been presented at the local HV forum where a proposed layout of the resource tool was suggested as below. Feedback was then gathered and the project is now at the stage of implementation. There will be a ‘Task and Finish’ Group who will meet bimonthly to help compile the required information, they will also be responsible for keeping the information current and evidence based. The tool will remain electronic so that it can be easily updated as services/government guidance changes and evolves.

National Drivers for Change
• The Healthy Child Programme (2009), The Marmot Review (2010) and the Health Visitor Implementation Plan (DH 2011), stress the importance of protecting vulnerable families and reducing health inequalities for children and families
• All health professionals are encouraged to share information, communicate effectively and learn from each others practice (HM Government 2013, pg.65)
• Reducing Infant Mortality and Improving Maternal Mental Health are both Millennium Development Goals (UN 2000); underpinning the relevance of attachment and bonding theories which are essential to HV practice (DH 2011, The Wave Trust 2013)

Local drivers for change
• The Pan Lancashire Annual Report (2013) provides guidance on expected and unexpected child deaths. Highlighting the importance of multidisciplinary working and recommending the need for support and training for staff following the death of a child (PLR-DOP 2013).
• The Trust Values (Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust 2014) and the 6 C’s (CNO 2012) promote team working, sharing good practice, compassion, safety and competence in leading and delivering the Healthy Child Programme (NHS England 2014).

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Suggested Content for the Electronic Bereavement Support Resource Tool
1. An annotated reference list- a list of national and local organisations, charities, services etc that could be useful contacts when signposting families. Including information about multiple births, complex health issues, sibling support and counselling and bereavement services. It will include a description of the service, contact and referral details
2. Ideas of projects to support the family and to preserve memories- Guidance on how to create memory boxes, photo albums, scrap books and other memory keepsakes for example painted pebbles, benches, tree planting, memory events
3. Reflection tools- for HV’s to use themselves, including a specific model for dealing with child bereavement
4. The Health Visitors role- Good Practice Guidelines on the role of the HV when faced with a child bereavement
5. Practical advice/ Frequently asked questions- information about what happens to a child’s body after a death, legal process, other professional involvement
6. Training Opportunities for Staff- a list of organisations/ events which are specific to supporting staff.

Anonymous feedback from the Health Visitor Forum, September 2014.

- Helpful to join together local projects/initiatives to use when working alongside grieving families...very useful addition to the service
- Good idea and I think it will prove a valuable resource, having had a family who have suffered bereavement at the time I did feel quite helpless to support them
- Fabulous project idea in support of professionals who receive very little formal training or structured support before meeting these challenges
- A great idea that will help parents and HV’s. Much needed
- Very useful, personally feel that there is a gap in my knowledge in this field

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