



BHSCT Charitable Trust Funds Grant Application

Amalgam Fund Name & Number	General Fund C01
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For official CTF office use only		
CTF Unique Approval Ref	Date	Initialled

Details of anticipated expenditure (list all expected itemised costs) additional information can be provided on a separate sheet

Background

The Belfast Trust Bereavement Service provides vital support to bereaved people, their families and staff across the Trust.

Supporting documentation

Please find attached a paper outlining the work of the Belfast Trust Bereavement service and its impact across the organisation.

To provide this quality service, the team's constitution should be:

- WTE Band 7 Deputy Bereavement Coordinator
- 0.66 WTE Band 6 Registered Nurse
- 1.4 WTE Band 3 Administration Support
- 3 volunteers offering 1 session per week

Slippage money from the Patient and Client Experience team funds the Band 6 RN post; otherwise, no funding is aligned to these vital posts. The team has relied on charitable funds since 2022 and this support will expire on 31st March 2026. The Department of Health, who are leading on the development of a 10-Year Bereavement Strategy for Northern Ireland, have advised that funding will follow. The Trust has lobbied the DOH in the last number of years, seeking to expedite funding and we have articulated the concern that this vulnerable service is (without investment) at risk of collapse.

Work on the strategy is progressing well, and Dr Patricia Donnelly has advised a submission to the Minister for Health, will be made in the Autumn / Winter of 2025. Subject to Ministerial approval, indicative funding is expected in 2026-2027.

Top slicing funding across all directorates is not palatable due to the current financial pressures in each area.

Request

That Charitable Funds will extend their support by a further 12 months until 31st March 2027.

Exit Strategy

Year 1- 100% funding (£148k as per application)

Year 2- 66% funding (£98k)

Year 3- 33% funding (49k)

This support would:

- Avoid the collapse of this vital service
- Allow the continuation of support, advice and assistance to the bereaved
- Align with the strategic direction of bereavement care in Northern Ireland
- Allow the continuation of education and training to all staff across the Trust in the care of the bereaved

We thank Charitable Funds for their ongoing support and consideration of this request.

Amount Required Exclusive of VAT £147,915

APPLICANT PRINT NAME: TRACEY ASHFIELD, TRUST BEREAVEMENT COORDINATOR
APPLICANT SIGNATURE & DATE Tracey Ashfield 15/12/25

Employee declaration FOR TRAVEL COURSE AND CONFERENCES UK & IRELAND ONLY

Where applicable, by signing this form I confirm that:
My study leave application has been approved by the appropriate manager through HRPTS system in line with the assistance to study policy.
I am responsible for ensuring that the correct level of approval has been obtained when submitting the Charitable Funds Application

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

Have all other avenues been explored for funding and what was the outcome? i.e General Capital Funds

There is no current option for the enhanced bereavement service to be funded by the Belfast Trust

Have you approached another Committee for this funding previously? If so, what was the outcome?
No.

Please note the Committees decision can range from anywhere between 2-6 weeks to be relayed so please ensure your application is submitted well in advance. Once a decision has been made, the CTF team will update you

<i>I have reviewed the attached request and I am content it meets the Public Benefit Test, it fits with the fund objectives, Trust objectives, values and is in line with the CTF Handbook & Guiding Principles</i>			
Committee Member 1 Signature & Date			
Committee Member 2 or Chair Signature & Date			
Category of Spend Please Select one			
Building & Refurb		Medical Research	Patient Education & Welfare
Purchase of New Equip		Staff Education	Other
Other- Please Specify			