

How to become a bereavement volunteer at Cruse Bereavement Support Isle of Man



Firstly, thank you for your interest in volunteering with us. This sheet aims to answer the most common questions associated with training and working as a bereavement volunteer (BV) for Cruse Bereavement Support Isle of Man.

Cruse Bereavement Support Isle of Man offers support, guidance and information to adults, young people, and children when someone dies, and works to enhance community support for bereaved people. We are licensed to Cruse Bereavement Support in the UK.

Bereavement support is usually in person, but we can also provide support via phone or via Teams or Zoom if preferred. The majority of our services are provided by a network of volunteers and are confidential and provided without cost. Cruse also provides external training to corporates, primary care and third sector charities and organisations.

If you are someone who is interested in people, is empathic, non-judgemental plus a good listener and could be comfortable with someone who is distressed and talking about death, we hope you may be interested in training with us as a bereavement volunteer.

Why do I need to do the training to volunteer for Cruse?

Everybody who works with Cruse clients needs to first complete a Bereavement Support Foundation course, which has been endorsed and quality checked by the National Counselling & Psychotherapy Society. The course aims to develop the skills and abilities of those who wish to support bereaved people through volunteering with Cruse. Further mandatory and elective courses are also available. If eligible, you may choose to go on to work with children and young people.

This course uses personal reflection and group processes to develop awareness, skills and knowledge of participants. Ongoing review and self-assessment are essential to the learning process. There is some short pre-course reading. This will be sent to you once your place has been confirmed.

In addition, all trainees will be required to complete a portfolio of work to provide evidence of their learning. There is an ongoing commitment to update this portfolio – this will involve a variety of weekly tasks including reflecting on what has been learned that week in relation to knowledge, skills and awareness. Completion of this work is undertaken in your own time, although there is a deadline.

I haven't undertaken any study for a long time, does this matter?

No. You are well supported on the training course by the trainers and the others who are on the course. We are keen to recruit people with a wide range of skills and experiences.

This course is open to adults of all ages and backgrounds who are committed to volunteering their time to support bereaved people within Cruse.

Key Dates	Bereavement Support Foundation Course 2026/7
Saturday 11 April 2026	Information morning to be held at Cruse HQ – place to be booked by emailing training@cruse.org.im
Wednesday 20 May 2026	Deadline for applications to attend the course
Week beginning 13 July 2026	Pre-course interview held at Cruse Office
Week beginning 31 July 2026	Applicants are notified if they have been accepted onto the training course. We are usually oversubscribed and can only take up to 15 candidates.
Saturday 17 October 2026	Day 1, 9.30am – 4.30pm Introductions, beginnings and the meaning of grief
Saturday 31 October 2026	Day 2, 9.30am – 4.30pm Introducing counselling skills
Saturday 14 November 2026	Day 3, 9.30am – 4.30pm Models of Grief and challenging emotions
Saturday 28 November 2026	Day 4, 9.30am – 4.30pm Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Looking after yourself
Saturday 05 December 2026	Day 5, 9.30am – 4.30pm Safeguarding clients and self
Saturday 12 December 2026	Day 6, 9.30am – 4.30pm Working with clients who are suicidal or self-harm
Saturday 09 January 2027	Day 7, 9.30am – 4.30pm Working remotely and the importance of empathy
Saturday 30 January 2027	Portfolio deadline
From 22 February 2027	Post-course interviews If successful, followed by DBS checks and onboarding
Saturday 13 March 2027	Induction day, 9.30am – 1.00pm
TBA	Trauma awareness (mandatory training - to be completed within 12 months of completing Foundation training)
TBA	Additional Electives including Working with Clients Bereaved by Suicide

Who delivers the training?

The course is delivered by skilled Cruse trainers who have extensive experience of working with bereaved people as well as supervisory and training experience within Cruse.

Where will the training be held?

The training will be held at the St John Ambulance training room, Glencrutchery Road, Douglas

Is there a cost for the training?

The cost of the course is **£100** payable prior to the commencement of the first session. The cost is to cover resources and materials.

Can I start volunteering immediately after completion of the Bereavement Support Foundation course?

You can start supporting clients face to face following completion of a post course interview, successful application to the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS), a reference check and a half day induction session plus completion of various onboarding documents. We are hoping our new BVs will be ready to start seeing clients by the beginning of April 2027.

What on-going commitment do I need to give to Cruse?

We are seeking to recruit volunteers prepared to give a minimum of four hours a month, supporting a client face-to-face or online or via telephone support.

How does Cruse look after its volunteers?

Volunteers are assigned a Supervisor and will be required to have regular supervision sessions. Supervisors support bereavement volunteers' client work, professional development and well-being. Clinical supervision is a mandatory requirement when volunteering for Cruse. We also arrange an annual Volunteers Day and various social and well-being events.

What further training will I need?

All bereavement support volunteers are required to attend Trauma Awareness training within the first 12 months with Cruse. There are also opportunities to complete other Cruse elective modules to support your skills development, including Working with People Bereaved by Suicide. We also offer regular workshops and talks on relevant topics of interest.

You will be required to fulfil 15 hours training/continuing professional development each year, of which 6 hours should be face to face training/development.

If you have any queries or need any further information please contact us at training@cruse.org.im or phone 668191.

*If you would like to apply to train as a Cruse bereavement volunteer, please complete the application form and return it by 20 May 2026 to
Cruse Bereavement Support Isle of Man, 1 Carrs Lane, Douglas, IM4 4QB
or by email to training@cruse.org.im*