

Eligibility Criteria Policy

The Bodie Hodges Foundation aims to ensure that every family in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland who experiences the death of a child has access to compassionate, specialist support. We work with parents whose only child has died, as well as families with surviving children, and we welcome individuals and families of any faith or no faith.

We accept self-referrals from bereaved families, as well as professional referrals from those working in healthcare, social care, education, and charities supporting families.

Referral Criteria

Referrals can be made for any family who meets the following criteria:

- The family lives in Leicester, Leicestershire, or Rutland.
- The child or young person was aged between 24 weeks' gestation and 25 years at the time of their death.
- The referral is for parents and siblings of the child or young person. This includes grandparents, step-parents, step and half siblings, blended families, guardians, carers and anyone who held parental responsibility at the time of the child's death.
- If the child or young person was under **18 years of age** at the time of their death, a referral can be made within two years of the bereavement.

Young People Aged 18–25 Years

As of June 2026, our support has extended to include bereaved families of young people aged 18–25 years. We will accept referrals for any family bereaved of a young person aged 18–25 **from 1 March 2026 onwards**. Unfortunately, we cannot accept any referrals for deaths before 1 March 2026 due to funding and service capacity.

Investigations and Pre-Trial Support

We are a small, self-funded charity and we regret that we are unable to offer pre-trial support for families who are currently part of an investigation following the death of their child. Once an investigation is concluded, we will be able to discuss relevant bereavement support options with you.

We are also unable to accept referrals for wider family members such as aunts, uncles, and cousins.

The Bodie Hodges Foundation offers the following support options:

- Bereavement counselling to parents/carers of the child that died
- Bereavement counselling to siblings of the child that died who are school-aged and above
- Bodie's Treasured Memory Bags for siblings (available Nationwide)

Bereavement Peer support groups including:

- Creative Grief Workshop for Mums
- Chips and Chat for Dads
- Together Project for siblings 11-16 year olds
- Together Siblings for 6-10 Years year olds
- Grandparents Group

Peer support groups for both adults and children require a referral to join, meeting the same service eligibility criteria as other support, but are open ended and can be attended for as long as needed.

Following a referral an assessment will be carried out with parents to gather information for us to offer the best support to the whole family. This service is designed to be family focused and support all family members.

This policy will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, at least once a year. The Bodie Hodges Foundation will amend this policy, following consultations with our CEO Donna Hodges and Chair of Trustees Gemma Orton.

To be reviewed:
August 2026