



# SCOTTY'S COUNCIL



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Scotty's Council provides a voice for Bereaved Forces Children, Young People and Young Adults. The council is massively important in helping to shape who we are and what we do.

We have one council although sometimes we might meet by age group or in sub groups when only certain members of the council are working on a project.

We do try and make being a member of the council fun, but it is a serious role. We need to hear the members voices, their stories and their ideas. We also need them to represent Scotty's in public, so they may be asked to speak to media or in front of powerful people because it is important that the world hears from our young people too and not just the Scotty Team.

**The council have online meetings throughout the year and at least 4 'all hands-on deck' online meetings a year.**

**They also take meet up in person throughout the year too. Past examples include;**

- A trip to no 10 Downing Street to talk about issues at school, followed by a meal in London.
- A trip to London to meet with Prince Harry and share experiences of being a bereaved child/young person.
- A trip to the rolling hills of Oxfordshire to raise money for Scotty's and have a bit of a walk and talk, as part of the annual Scotty's March fundraising event.

**In addition to meeting online and in person, council members also volunteer to do important work for Scotty's. Past examples include:**

- Writing to the Department for Education, outlining the problems in school and the changes that can be made.
- Attending an All-Party Parliamentary Group in London to ensure that the voices of bereaved children are heard by policymakers.
- Working with Scotty's research team to build evidence about our sector.
- Writing scripts and storyboards for an animation to teach the public about the issues in schools. They also worked with the animation company to decide the style and format of the animations.
- Taking part in interviews on national television and national radio to raise awareness for bereaved children.

# SCOTTY'S PLEDGE



WE NEED COMMITMENT FROM OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS, BUT WE ALSO KNOW THAT THEY NEED COMMITMENT FROM US TOO, SO AT SCOTTY'S WE PLEDGE TO:

## 1. FOCUS ON THEIR UNIQUE SKILLS AND STRENGTHS

We recognise that different council members (and members here, covers Springboarders too) have different interests and skills. We want to make sure council members spend their time doing what they love and what they do best, so when we want input from the council (for example to attend an event, write a script, be on the news) we will ask the group for volunteers or approach those members who currently have the right skills for the particular task. There is no expectation for everyone to want to do everything!

Sometimes we all need a little help. Scotty's strongly encourage lifelong learning so sometimes council members may be offered training to help them become an even stronger leader. This might be media training to help them to give powerful interviews whilst protecting their boundaries, or presentation skills training to help them convince a room full of politicians to change the support offered to bereaved children. If we know that a member would like to volunteer in a particular role for the council, but we feel they aren't quite ready, or if it's not the right time for them right now, we will try and support their development so that they can take that kind of role on in the future.

## 2. PROVIDE THE TOOLS AND TRAINING

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## 3. BE FLEXIBLE AROUND THEIR LIVES

We recognise that council members have busy lives, and sometimes their lives are complicated, especially when dealing with grief. We understand that council members may need to take some time out now and again, and this is fine. 6 months out, a year, they won't lose their place. Council members bring valuable expertise to Scotty's so we will be always be supportive of their needs.



As part of our commitment to our council members wellbeing, we ask that all new members joining the council talk to our SUPPORT team to make sure that joining is right for them, at that particular time.

After that they have regular check ins with the SUPPORT team to make sure that they are still in a good place (and remember they can take a break whenever they need and their place will always be here for them.

## 4. SUPPORT THEM ON THEIR JOURNEY



# SCOTTY'S PLEDGE



## 5. PROVIDE MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP THEM LEAD SCOTTY'S

Our members are the experts on children who have experienced the death of a parent who served. Their opinions, ideas and THEIR voice is crucial to leading Scotty's.

We will provide them with the support, tools and training they need but when we ask for their help, it is not tokenistic. Their answers will shape what we do.

Whenever we can, we will pass as much decision making as possible over to our fabulous council.



# CRITERIA



- **Be the right age.** To join the council you need to be 12 years or above. If you are under 12 don't worry, your time will come!
- **Have a willingness to give up your time** to help lead Scotty's. That means sharing your opinions, ideas and volunteering to help with projects where you can.
- **Have a genuine respect for your peers.** As a council member you will be representing all our members, so it is important that you can listen to other children and young people with compassion and respect confidentiality. You need to have a strong desire to use your position on the council for the good of all. With great power comes great responsibility!
- **Telling your story:** Being on the council means telling your story and listening to the stories from other bereaved children. Before joining the council, Scotty's SUPPORT team will need to meet with you for a chat. They will need to feel that being on the Council and the work that it entails will not be harmful to you, and that you are ready. If they have concerns, they will talk to you about them and try to work out a plan to help you develop, so that you can join the council when you are ready.



# HOW TO JOIN:



**Scotty's does not have a limit on the number of people who can join the council. You can apply anytime.**

- If you are interested in joining the council, please email [families@scottyslittlesoldiers.co.uk](mailto:families@scottyslittlesoldiers.co.uk). Parents/Carers: We ask that the child applies for themselves – although with you copied into the email and with your encouragement is fine! Once we receive an email from someone under 18, we will contact you to check you are okay with it too and of course, let you know what being a parent/carer of a council member might entail!
- You will then need to complete our **Joining Form** so that we can understand more about you, your interests, your experiences, your skills, your likes and dislikes. There are no wrong answers, it just helps us know the kind of work you might be most interested in.
- Scotty's will then arrange for you to **chat to a member of our SUPPORT team**. This is so important as being on the council means telling your story and listening to the stories from other bereaved young people. The Team member will need to feel that being on the council and the work that it entails will not be harmful to you, and that you are ready. If they have concerns, they will talk to you and work out a plan to help you develop so that you can join the council when you are ready.
- Next, you will receive your welcome email and we add you and your parent/carer (if under 18) to our **WhatsApp group chat**. This is the main way we communicate as a council. Now the fun (and hard work) 😊 begins!