



CARE OF POLICE SURVIVORS (COPS)

'Rebuilding Shattered Lives'

Eligibility Criteria

COPS is a UK registered charity dedicated to helping the families of police officers and police staff who have lost their lives on duty to rebuild their lives. COPS has widened its scope to include supporting the families and partners of police officers and police staff who have lost their lives in the line of duty or directly in connection with their police duty.

Eligibility criteria are required to ensure that resources are targeted most effectively to the particular group of survivors. These criteria are stated here:-

- The police officer or police staff member died whilst on police duty, or whilst travelling to or from carrying out police duty, or whilst through his/her actions placing himself/herself on police duty.
- The police officer or police staff member died subsequently as a result of a medical condition such as a heart attack or an injury following a serious incident on duty, and their death is clearly linked to their police duty.
- The police officer or police staff member died directly or indirectly, as a result of mental health issues following physical and/or psychological injury received on duty. This may include acute or chronic conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), severe depression and/or anxiety, substance misuse etc, culminating in the accidental death or suicide of that person. Such a death may occur many months or many years after a traumatic incident. In such circumstances, relevant information will be sensitively gathered with consent by an appropriately qualified and experienced professional/s from relevant sources such as the family, friends, colleagues, senior management, Occupational Health, the GP and related professionals, and a carefully considered recommendation will be put together so that the issue of eligibility may be decided by a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees.

It is not envisaged that the bereaved families and friends of police officers or police staff who have died in other sad circumstances would be supported by COPS, as it is necessary to prioritise COPS funds and services in order to ensure that those who have paid the ultimate price in the line of duty or directly connected to their police work are the main recipients of COPS support for as long as they need it.

COPS is very sympathetic to all bereaved family and friends of police officers and police staff and is sorry for their loss, and so will endeavour to that those family and friends who may have contacted COPS but who do not actually meet the above COPS criteria, are nevertheless properly and respectfully signposted to the many other police charities and support services and networks who are already in place to help and support people in their particular situation.

Reviewed and updated 9/5/2017

Supporting the families of police officers who lost their lives on duty – www.ukcops.org T:01543 410790

Patron: Sir Keith Povey QPM BA -Registered Charity No 1101478 Scottish Charity No SC038541