

Thank you for requesting information of the PAPYRUS suicide prevention training resource for universities and colleges which was recently launched in the House of Commons.

PAPYRUS is a national charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide, raising awareness that suicide is not necessarily the ultimate result of feeling suicidal. Founded in 1997 by a group of parents who had lost a son or daughter to suicide, it aims to support families, friends, carers and anyone else who works with young people in a professional capacity.

PAPYRUS has recognised for a long time that young people in higher and further education form a vulnerable group. In the United Kingdom around 1,800 young people under the age of 35 take their own lives each year. Some of them are students.

Research shows that with appropriate early intervention and support, a suicidal young person can be deterred from taking that ultimate step. With the support of The Big Lottery, the charity was able to commission a study on suicide in the student population.

The study, RaPSS (Responses and Prevention in Student Suicide), undertaken by researchers at the University of Central Lancashire and King's College London, confirmed the need for a training resource that would help university and college staff understand what part they can play in preventing suicide and how to support the friends and family of a student who has taken their own life.

Amongst the findings the RaPSS study found that

- staff affected by student suicides did not always receive formal support from their university;
- universities need to review their availability to students especially over the summer months;
- services do not always reach students living in the private rented sector,
- not all university/college support services and NHS services seemed to communicate effectively,
- some parents thought that more could have been done to keep them informed.

The PAPHYRUS Suicide Prevention Pack for Universities and Colleges responds to needs highlighted in the study. It includes :

1. a copy of the full RaPSS Report
2. a summary report
3. a training DVD for academic and pastoral staff with dramatised 'case study' scenarios. This 12 minute DVD **raises awareness** of the issue of suicide amongst students and sets the scene to promote discussion in a workshop setting.
4. a booklet for academic and pastoral staff. **Preventing Student Suicide – a guide for staff in universities and colleges** is designed to encourage a greater understanding of student suicide - why does it happen?, risk factors, possible warning signs, what to say and do and importantly, sources of help. It also addresses the role of staff in the aftermath of a student's suicide.
5. **Students – are they coping ?** an awareness card for ancillary staff such as porters and cleaners.
6. **Friends – are they coping ?** an information leaflet for students worried about a friend.
7. **'not coping? ... start talking'** a postcard for a young person who may be feeling suicidal.
8. small wallet contact cards with the number of HOPELineUK 0870 170 4000 - the PAPHYRUS helpline.

Each of these items may be purchased separately and in bulk – please see the attached order form.

We recommend that workshops are conducted in your institution to consider the role of staff in suicide prevention and in dealing with the aftermath of suicide. Having viewed the DVD and taken part in general discussion ideally all members of staff should receive their own copy of either the booklet or information card for their future reference.

The student leaflet and card should be made available to all students – possibly in their Freshers' Pack or via the Students Union.

PAPYRUS hopes to organise a series of regional seminars around this subject. The first will be held in the North West towards the end of 2007. **Please let us know if you are interested in attending a seminar.**

We would appreciate your views on the resource pack. You can email your comments to [admin@papyrus-uk.org](mailto:admin@papyrus-uk.org)

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to support your work in suicide prevention.

Yours sincerely

**Anne Parry**  
Chair

**Patrons:**

David Hanson MP  
Simon Hughes MP  
Rt Hon David Heathcoat-Amory MP

**Hon. Advisor:**

Prof. Mark Williams  
University of Oxford

**HOPELineUK**  
**0870 170 4000**

Lodge House  
Thompson Park  
Ormerod Road  
BURNLEY  
BB11 2RU

**tel:** 01282 432555

**email:** [admin@papyrus-uk.org](mailto:admin@papyrus-uk.org)

**web:** [www.papyrus-uk.org](http://www.papyrus-uk.org)

PAPYRUS  
 Lodge House Thompson Park  
 Ormerod Road  
 BURNLEY  
 BB11 2RU  
 phone: 01282 432555  
 fax: 01282 432777



## PAPYRUS Suicide Prevention Guide for Universities and Colleges

A resource for universities and colleges

Title		Cost	Number	total cost
RaPSS full report		£17.50		
RaPSS summary		£2		
DVD only		£17.50		
Preventing Student Suicide complete pack (includes one of each of the above and a sample of those below)		£35		
Staff guide	pack of 10	£18		
Staff card	pack of 25	£13		
Student card (friend)	pack of 25	£13		
Student postcard	pack of 25	£10		

The prices quoted include postage, VAT is not payable.  
 For larger quantities we can offer discounts between 15% and 30%  
 depending on volume, please ask for a quotation.  
 We can also make up packs to suit your budget.

**Total: £** \_\_\_\_\_

Please enter official order number if you require an invoice. \_\_\_\_\_

If payment is enclosed tick here for a receipt.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

