During the week of 09/09/2024-13/09/2024 we held a fundraising memorial plethora of wellbeing activities for the loss of ever loved colleague David Evans who sadly passed away in April. The event was open to colleagues in his home jobcentre and was widely publicised with other offices who closely worked with him as we wanted as many colleagues as possible to be able to attend if they wished to. The lead HASSRA members for the events were Sarah Frewin and Sallie-ann Brothers. As an office we held a meeting to see what we could put on which would attract as many colleagues as possible across the whole week, we look at which events could be run to include people from home and other offices. The activities we decided to run included fun and games on the 6th floor during break time and lunchtimes, these included snakes and ladders and a Wii was set up for sporting competitions, Toastie Tuesday where everyone who wanted a toastie popped their order in and paid a nominal amount to receive a very tasty toastie. We held salsa dancing lessons during lunchtimes to promote fitness and fun, car washing in the car park, an online quiz with small prizes, dress down. The main event was a memorial English Tea during the Wednesday Wellbeing Comms all colleagues were invited to join us on the mobility accessible ground floor for tea and cake and to share stories and memories of our beloved David, it was a perfect time to share experiences on dealing with grief, activities to improve wellbeing. As we were raising money for the British Heart Foundation, we had a display set up for ways to improve our health via exercises, diet, signs and symptoms. As David was a big part of our jobcentre, we all had a sense of belonging as we all came together to celebrate his life, we supported each other in our grief and comforted each other in the knowledge of how loved David was and how he will be missed. It was held during a wellbeing comms and the jobcentre was closed it allowed colleagues from other departments to join us, David worked with so many people in his years with us and it was great to see retired Hassra members join us for the celebration.

I believe we should win this competition as it was truly magical week, allowing us time to reflect on memories and build our resilience for our wellbeing, it was informative on heart health and colleagues were able to be themselves during the week, we had tears and laughter all week and we raised an incredible £400 for charity during the events. David will always be a part of our lives and having this week allowed us all time to come together to share in our grief and sad loss.

The feedback following on from the event has been extremely positive, the main comments were around allowing our staff to do which ever event they wanted to take part in rather than them having to sit in an event they would not enjoy, the freedom to choose was positive. A reflection comment after the event was: Thank you HASSRA for running this amazing week, it was so nice to be able to have some fun and remember David, I laughed at memories and cried at memories but knowing I had support from all of my colleagues was extremely welcomed.