

## Quick guide to using Beyond Words resources

### What is a Beyond Words book?

- It's a book without any words.
- Pictures are used to tell a story.
- The story puts across information.
- The pictures can also be used to help people to explore and understand how they feel.

### Why use a Beyond Words book?

- To understand information without reading words.
- To explore feelings and emotions that may be difficult to put into words.
- To explain what is going to happen or guide difficult conversations (e.g. planning treatment if someone has a life-limiting illness).
- To build connections, by sharing a story.

### Who can use Books Beyond Words?

- People who find words hard to read e.g. language barrier or learning difficulty/low literacy.
- Anyone wanting to explore how they feel about a topic.

### How can a Beyond Words book be used?

A book can be read alone or together with a helper (peer mentor, member of healthcare team, prison officer, chaplaincy).

#### Alone

- Pictures put across information without having to read words.

#### With a helper

- The reader sets the pace, chooses how much to look at and what the pictures mean to them. There is no 'right' or 'wrong' story.
- A storyline is written out at the end of the book. Each number matches a picture. This is just a prompt for the helper.
- The helper can guide the reader by asking 'What, how, why, who' questions about the pictures, to allow the reader to talk about the story e.g. 'What is the picture showing?' 'How do you think Jed feels?' 'Why do you think Jed looks angry?' 'Who else will be feeling sad about Kate?'