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Gender torment of 10-year-old Cameron

A SUPPORT group for children with gender issues today extended their "heartfelt sympathy" to Cameron's family.

Sharon Brown from Mermaids, which helps youngsters struggling with gender identity issues, along with their friends and family, said today: "We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family at this terrible time. The loss of a child is impossible to imagine.

"A large number of members at Mermaids are parents with children who have experienced, or are experiencing, gender identity problems, so this strikes a chord.

"A number of our children have made attempts on their own lives, thankfully unsuccessful.

"Children with gender dysphoria are often isolated, bullied and persecuted for being different. Making friends is hard, as they do not conform to the gender norms that others expect.

"Life alone with this can seem intolerable.

"Finding Mermaids as a source of information and support has been a turning point for many, as the knowledge that you are not alone can provide comfort and solace.

"This is a terrible, terrible tragedy, and for many of us at Mermaids, a sharp reminder of what we could have faced. Our thoughts are with Cameron's family.