

End of Life Care in Wiltshire

Engagement with Community Area Boards Spring 2011

Alison Bell – End of Life Care Lead NHS Wiltshire

End of Life care is:

‘living well until you die’

National Council for Palliative Care

Sensitivity

- Death and dying affects us all ultimately
- But dying remote from most people's lives

Policy Context

National End of Life Care Strategy published 2008

Adapted to Local Strategy (2009)

Aims to:

- respond to the needs of patients and carers in planning for end of life,
- to deliver high quality end of life care and
- to ensure that people's preferences on place of care are met.

Adults only

Wiltshire context

- In Wiltshire in 2009/10 3995 people died
- Just under one third less than 75 years of age
- People Voice survey 60% would prefer to die at home (June 2009)
- 48% of our patients died in an acute hospital, 43% die at 'home' (2009/10)
- 51% of local deaths are anticipated by patient's own GP

What are we doing?

GPs use the Gold Standards Framework

Neighbourhood teams and community hospital staff

Care home / social services staff

Our 3 local acute hospitals.

Our 3 local hospices

Wiltshire NHS ensures that all health and social care professionals can access specialist palliative care advice from hospices 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

What we need to do

Break the taboo

Encourage people to discuss their wishes with their families and health staff

The survey of 1,375 people, conducted by the social research institute NatCen, asked those who had not discussed their end-of-life needs why not? The reason given by 63 per cent was that they felt too young to discuss death, or death felt a long way off. Even at 80 we feel too young to consider the big D.

“Thinking and talking about death need not be morbid; they may be quite the opposite. Ignorance and fear of death overshadow life, while knowing and accepting death erases this shadow.”

Lily Pincus

Where you can go for further information:

National Council for Palliative Care. www.ncpc.org.uk/

Guide to writing a will

Planning for your future care – references at the back

<http://www.endoflifecareforadults.nhs.uk/>

Carers uk www.carersuk.org/Home