

Wiltshire Council

Health and Wellbeing Board

21 November 2013

End of Life Care

Executive Summary

The Government is currently undertaking a review of its End of Life Care Strategy. Alongside this a response is being developed to the independent review of the Liverpool Care Pathway and a Palliative Care Funding Review is being conducted which is due to report early in 2014.

As an important part of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy a range of activity is underway in Wiltshire to improve end-of-life planning and co-ordination. This paper notes the recent letter to Chairs of Health and Wellbeing Boards from the Secretary of State for Health and invites the Board to consider a more detailed update on these issues at its next meeting.

Proposal(s)

It is recommended that the Board:

- i. notes the letter from Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Health (Appendix 1) on End of Life Care;
- ii. agrees to a detailed discussion on the approach to End of Life Care in Wiltshire at a future meeting, preferably in January 2014.

Reason for Proposal

Improving End of Life Care is an important priority in Wiltshire's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and requires close working between social care and health. A range of national developments and recent local activity means a discussion on End of Life Care will be timely at the Board's next meeting in January.

Cllr Jane Scott OBE
Chair of Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board
Leader of Wiltshire Council

End of Life Care

Purpose of Report

1. To bring to the Board's attention the letter from the Secretary of State for Health on End of Life Care and invite further discussion on the issue at the Board's next meeting in January.

Main Considerations

2. Despite the fact that around 70% of people would prefer to die at home, 60% currently die in hospital - the culture of which is to cure people, or at least improve their state of health. This can lead to some patients receiving unnecessary painful or invasive treatment; equally there can be concerns that such patients are viewed as a burden on NHS resources and may not receive appropriate care.
3. Nationally there are a number of initiatives underway to ensure people receive good end of life care and to improve availability of hospice care. The Government is currently undertaking a review of its End of Life Care Strategy. Alongside this a response is being developed to the independent review of the Liverpool Care Pathway and a Palliative Care Funding Review is being conducted which is due to report early in 2014.
4. The Secretary of State for Health has written to Health and Wellbeing Boards to ensure they are aware of this work and invites them to consider it within their Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies. A copy of the letter is attached at Appendix 1.
5. As an important part of Wiltshire's agreed Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, a range of activity is already underway in Wiltshire to improve End of Life planning and co-ordination. An End of Life Strategy group is currently drafting a revised strategy which should be available for discussion in January. Work is also underway on Electronic Palliative Care Co-ordination Systems (EPaCCS). EPaCCS provide a shared local record for health and social care professionals with rapid access across care boundaries to key information about an individual approaching the end of life, including their expressed preferences for care.
6. Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group are currently recruiting additional staff to deliver improved End of Life Care and have made it a key priority within their operational plans. A Fair Dying event is also due to take place at the Guildhall in Salisbury in December. Further information about this will be circulated to Board members in due course.

Cllr Jane Scott OBE
Chair of Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board
Leader of Wiltshire Council

Report Author: David Bowater, Senior Corporate Support Officer, 01225 713978
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Appendices

Appendix 1 - Letter from Jeremy Hunt on End of Life Care