

We have thoroughly enjoyed working on this project and would love to share the results and more about how we secured funding for this project through the HLF.

We have an audio post with a snapshot of some of the recordings. The display is portable as we intend to move it around our community over the coming months.

P-24 **SIMPLE ACTS OF KINDNESS: RESPECTFUL BURIALS FOR NEEDY MUSLIMS WITHIN A HOLISTIC END OF LIFE SERVICE**

Abu Mumin, Caroline Mawer, Ahad Miah. *Edencare UK, London, UK*

10.1136/bmjspcare-2016-001245.48

Background Although the specific end-of-life needs of Black and Asian people have been discussed in some detail, relatively few Muslim communities have been involved in developing end-of-life services. Important religious imperatives for Muslims include not only having a funeral as soon as possible, but also avoiding cremation. Although it is customary for Muslim communities to spontaneously help with burial costs for the needy, there is increasing funeral poverty across the UK. Since burials are even more expensive than cremations, there are significant practical and financial pressures on dying Muslims and their families. Muslim community members in East London have therefore developed a Muslim Burial Fund.

Aims To ensure that needy Muslims are helped with the practicalities and financial costs of a respectful Muslim burial, as part of a holistic end of life service.

Methods The Muslim Burial Fund has responded to the specific requirements of needy dying or deceased individuals. Services offered have included: hospital and home visits; help with statutory declarations; help with Social Fund applications; helping fund, organise and attend funerals and burials; funeral prayers; and supporting family and friends. If necessary, a Rapid Response Team carries out 24/7 visits when a person is nearing death.

Results So far, 18 Muslims have been given free and personalised burial support. The initial focus has been on the neediest: those with no next of kin; those who have no Muslim family; and Muslims found dead by the police.

With increased experience and knowledge, the aim is to sustainably expand the service.

Conclusions The Burial Fund provides a simple act of kindness. By breaking the community taboo around discussing death, the service also promotes engagement with a local Muslim befriending and advocacy service for those nearing end-of-life.

P-25 **VOLUNTEERS: RESOURCES OR PEOPLE?**

Sally Muylders. *St Joseph's Hospice, London, UK*

10.1136/bmjspcare-2016-001245.49

The hospice movement has been built on the efforts of volunteers and their contributions continue to be essential for the survival of the movement today. The impact of the work volunteers undertake is often quantified in terms of benefit to the hospice in financial terms or in additional services provided to patients, but the impact on the volunteer themselves and on the wider community is often overlooked. This is an essential component of a community development or compassionate communities approach. This presentation will assume a new perspective and

argue that a volunteer-focused perspective is essential in developing a community development approach in a hospice, but that this often sits at odds with a predominant patient-focused view.

Compassionate Neighbours is a community development project run through a large hospice which aims to start a social movement to transform the experiences of those affected by death, dying and loss. A key component of this is the training of community members to become 'compassionate neighbours' and visit people locally in need. The project manager is responsible for recruiting, selecting, training and supervising the compassionate neighbours and managing their position within the hospice. The manager does not see them just as a resource for the hospice to use but rather sees their personal development, their relationship with the hospice and their understanding of its work as key outcomes in their own right.

This presentation will use a case study approach to explore this situation in more detail, making use of evidence from the project evaluation to explore issues of risk, autonomy and the difficulties of starting community development projects where the outcomes are difficult to specify in advance. The outcomes of this approach including a buddying system, community champions and the acceptance of the project in the wider community will be presented.

P-26 **WELCOME TO THE MILL, ST CATHERINE'S PARK**

Lynn Kelly. *St Catherine's Hospice, Preston, UK*

10.1136/bmjspcare-2016-001245.50

Background The Mill, St Catherine's Park is to help address the feelings of apprehension and abandonment many patients feel about 'entering' palliative care or when they are discharged. Prior to The Mill opening, 96% of hospice patients, staff and volunteers surveyed felt that an informal and welcoming drop-in centre could help to overcome this. In November 2014 The Mill, St Catherine's Park opened – a community hub with a welcoming cafe on the ground floor and therapy rooms on the first floor.

Aims

- To promote independence through specialised information, advice, counselling, therapies and peer support in a relaxing, therapeutic environment
- To provide continuity of care to reduce apprehension and isolation
- To engage with the local community and change public perception of hospice care.

Method

- Use of volunteer 'advisors' to provide help, support and information to people to encourage independence and choice.
- New patient education programmes to encourage independence and choice
- A new drop-in coffee morning for patients to overcome loneliness, anxiety and feelings of abandonment.
- A timetable of gentle exercise activities such as a tai chi and yoga.

Results

- Creation of an informal, non-clinical environment for patients and families – 'it was so good to have somewhere in the grounds to go for some rest and relaxation; thank you so much for the haven you offered at this time'

- Encourages people to the hospice who would not usually feel able to just 'drop by'. 60,000 visits in the first year is estimated
- The information services have benefited more local people
- Reinvigorated support for the hospice.

Conclusion The Mill is changing public perception of hospice care, is providing informal means of support which complement existing hospice services and is generating more community engagement

P-27 MEMORIES IN THE WIND, A FAMILY PICNIC

Louise Johnson. *St. Cuthbert's Hospice, Durham, UK*

10.1136/bmjspcare-2016-001245.51

Intergenerational projects are a cornerstone of community development. Through sharing information and experiences young people can engage a different perspective and experience situations that they might not usually be exposed to. It is in transforming the perceptions of our young people that we can initiate culture change.

We worked with a local youth project to approach four local schools, targeting 'A' level Art students. Three declined stating that it was inappropriate for their young people to come into the hospice, the remaining school circulated information to students and five young people came forward. Students came into the hospice (extra curricula), talked to day guests about memories, and planned a series of art installations in the hospice grounds to support our Dying Matters week collaborations. Some of the conversations challenged the young people, but the situation was managed by the team, without specialist support services. The aim for students was to understand life, death, grief and loss, gaining an understanding that death is part of life and should be embraced.

The art was robust and weatherproofed, objects suspended in the trees and walkways for an afternoon picnic. Our day guests were excited to share their memories, and the final exhibition proved emotional as the artwork resonated with many of the visitors. Exhibits included small pictures in glass jars, a globe, and a film in the following areas:

- Wedding
- Picnic
- Beach
- Coronation
- Family ribbon tree
- Railways
- World travel
- RAF
- Hiking
- Horse racing
- Washing line.

The timing of the event was difficult for the young people as it led into exam time – students found this difficult. Overall it was a successful event, students commented on the wisdom of older people and how life has changed, but most of all we now have a solid foundation with the school to build future relationships and learning.

P-28 PUBLICITY, PITFALLS AND PEOPLE – A HOSPICE ENTERS AN RHS SHOW GARDEN

Helen Briscoe. *Primrose Hospice, Bromsgrove, UK*

10.1136/bmjspcare-2016-001245.52

The hospice was struggling with being known in the local community. This impacted on fundraising and also meant that potential patients weren't aware of services that could help them.

After discussions with a local garden designer a show garden was entered into the RHS Spring Festival at Malvern. Focussing on our children's bereavement support, it demonstrated visually the emotional journey that children experience when losing someone they love.

The aim was to use a nationally recognised 'vehicle' of an RHS flower show to promote our work to a wider audience and maybe make some money.

Sponsorship was sought including cash, goods, discounts and items being borrowed. Did you know you can 'borrow' a hedge? Well we did!

Volunteers and staff worked incredibly hard before, during and after the event doing so many supporting tasks.

We were delighted to win a bronze medal and more importantly win the People's Choice Award.

The publicity was amazing both pre- and post- event. Local, national and specialist publications ran our story. Local radio and TV took it up and our sponsors all promoted it so our social media ratings soared. Alan Titchmarsh even joined us on the garden and met the patients!

The impact on the people was phenomenal and was probably the most unexpected gain. The show garden was the most effective team build. The enthusiasm ran through volunteers, staff and even the patients who visited the garden one day. The visitors to the show all had a story to tell which was quite humbling at times and the pride the team showed whilst talking about our services was a joy to witness. Would we do it again? We don't know but never say never!

P-29 EDUCATING THE EDUCATORS – HOW TO ENGAGE SCHOOLS IN HOSPICE CARE

Gabi Field, Lawrie Mallyon. *St Catherine's Hospice, Crawley, UK*

10.1136/bmjspcare-2016-001245.53

For adult hospices, engaging with schools is a challenge; many support children's charities. We wanted to engage with secondary schools, to educate them about hospice care, help to develop some key skills and get them fundraising.

Our Five-0 Project was aimed at secondary schools, who were challenged to recruit a team of six students and raise a minimum of £1,500 over 11 weeks from a start-up investment of £50.

We visited to talk about the project and what it would mean for the school. Recent reports from the government and the private sector have expressed the importance and benefits of Enterprise in education in today's schools. Schools were particularly engaged with the emphasis on business skills, innovation and supporting charity. We recruited seven schools including three new supporters.